

Hughes Aides End Silence

Washington

At least 13 employees of billionaire Howard Hughes began talking to Senate Watergate investigators yesterday, a step that may purge them of possible contempt of Congress action.

The interrogation session apparently revitalized a stalled Senate investigation into a \$100,000 payment made by Hughes to President Nixon's close personal friend, Charles G. Bebe Rebozo.

Meeting for more than three hours in the office of Watergate committee Chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), the potential witnesses were reported to have answered under oath all questions put to them.

Samuel Dash, the committee's chief counsel, said that Chester Davis, an attorney representing Hughes, agreed to appear before the full committee in an executive session this afternoon.

Dash said a schedule has been arranged for all other Hughes witnesses to be questioned by the investigators.

The committee has issued a subpoena for 1000 \$100 bills said to have been returned to Davis last spring by Rebozo.

Rebozo has told committee investigators he received the money in two \$50,000 installments in 1969 and 1970 from another Hughes representative.

Both Rebozo and Mr. Nixon have said the money was to have been used to help fi-

nance the President's 1972 re-election campaign but that it was returned in the same form in which it was given.

Investigators have questioned both the purpose of the payment and the claim that the identical bills Rebozo received later were returned to Davis.

Unlike all previous witnesses, the Hughes employees refused to meet with investigators in private interrogation — under oath — prior to the holding of any public session.

Associated Press