

Maheu's Story of Big Cash Gift

Los Angeles

He didn't ask for a receipt when he gave Hubert H. Humphrey \$50,000 in cash from Howard Hughes in 1968, according to Robert A. Maheu, then a Hughes lieutenant.

"I did not make Mr. Humphrey count the money in front of the people who were present," Maheu said in a

sworn deposition which was filed yesterday in federal court here.

The senator has denied that he ever personally received any funds from a Hughes emissary during his 1968 campaign for the presidency.

The deposition was the latest in a series taken in pretrial maneuvers in Maheu's \$17.3 million libel suit against Hughes, who said Maheu "stole me blind" two years after he fired him.

One of Maheu's jobs with Hughes was making contributions to political campaigns on behalf of the billionaire industrialist. He has told of playing a part in delivery of \$100,000 to Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo for President Nixon on behalf of Hughes.

"Hughes' lawyers," Maheu said, "have implied that I had kept such funds and they had never been delivered to the proper recipients."

He said the \$50,000 in cash was delivered to Humphrey personally in a limousine parked in front of the Century Plaza hotel during the 1968 campaign. There were other people in the car but he didn't know their names, he said.

"I entered the limousine, shook hands with Mr. Humphrey," said Maheu in his deposition. "There was a driver in front of the car, several people in the back seat of the car. I left the attache case on the floor, and pursuant to instructions from Mr. Hughes, I did not request a receipt and left."

Maheu said he had made arrangements for delivery of the attache case through a Humphrey aide whose name he could not recall.

"I remember telling the aide pursuant to Mr. Hughes' instructions that this should be kept very confidential because Howard Hughes had instructed me that he did not want to displease in any way Mr. Nixon."

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