

'Here's The Money'



UPI Telephoto
CHESTER DAVIS
Lawyer for Hughes

Washington

A lawyer for the billionaire industrialist Howard R. Hughes opened a brown attache case at a Senate Watergate committee interrogation yesterday, pulled out two manila envelopes containing 1000 hundred-dollar bills and slammed them on the table in front of the committee chairman Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr.

"Here's the goddamned money," the lawyer, Chester C. Davis, reportedly shouted, "Do what you

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want with it."

What the committee did was to give the bills to its deputy counsel, Rufus L. Edmisten. Then Edmisten, flanked by an aide to Davis, U.S. marshals and Capitol policemen, carried the money under his overcoat to the committee's offices across the street where the bills were photocopied.

I took nearly two hours to run the bills through the Xerox machine. When the procedure was finished, Edmisten brought the bills back, this time in a brief case, and gave them to Davis.

"I didn't want all that money to be responsible for," Ervin remarked afterward.

Davis reportedly told the committee that the bills were the same ones that a lawyer for President Nixon's friend, Charles G. Rebozo, had returned to him last June.

Rebozo has said that he was given the cash in two \$50,000 installments in 1969 and 1970 by aides to Hughes. Rebozo declared that he kept the bills for more than three years in a safe deposit box and then returned it.

Watergate committee in-

vestigators have been clearly skeptical of Rebozo's story. They had subpoenaed the money because, among other reasons, they wanted to see if all the bills had been printed before the date in 1970 that Rebozo allegedly received the second installment.

The staff plans to check the serial numbers on the bills with the U.S. Treasury to determine when the bills were printed.

In an interview with the Miami Herald, Rebozo said that there had actually been 1001 bills but Ervin said that it was his understanding that only 1000 had been given to the committee — "ten packs of bills," Ervin declared.

The interrogation, which lasted four and one-half hours, was conducted in a small room on the first floor of the Capitol.

Ervin, the North Carolina Democrat, and Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., the Connecticut Republican, attended the hearing along with a member of committee staff members.

None would divulge the substance of Davis' testimony. But Ervin said that the Hughes lawyer had "cooperated very well." In the past, Davis had declined

to answer questions in a closed session of the committee.

The Watergate committee has adjourned its hearings until after the first of next year. But the staff members seemed exhilarated following yesterday's session, and Ervin said that there was "very little doubt" that Rebozo would be called to testify in a public hearing when the hearings resume.

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