

ERVIN PANEL GETS HUGHES PAYMENT

1,000 Hundred-Dollar Bills
Photocopied for Inquiry
Into Campaign Funds

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4—

A lawyer for Howard R. Hughes opened a brown attache case at a Senate Watergate committee interrogation today, pulled out two manila envelopes containing 1,000 hundred-dollar bills and slammed them on the table in front of Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr.

"Here it is," the lawyer, Chester C. Davis, reportedly shouted. "Do what you want with it."

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

Bills Returned

It took nearly two hours to run the bills through the Xerox machine. When the procedure was finished, Mr. Edmisten brought the bills back and gave them to Mr. Davis.

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

Mr. 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.

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

Committee investigators have been skeptical of Mr. Rebozo's account. They subpoenaed the money because they wanted to see whether all the bills had been printed before the date in

1970 that Mr. Rebozo allegedly received the second installment.

The investigators also plan to check the serial numbers on the bills with the United States Treasury to determine when the bills were printed.

'10 Packs of Bills'

In an interview with The Miami Herald, Mr. Rebozo said there had been 1,001 hundred-dollar bills, but Senator Ervin said it was his understanding that only 1,000 had been given to the committee—"10 packs of bills," the Senator said.

The interrogation, which lasted four and a half hours, was conducted in a small room on the first floor of the Capitol, next to the Senate barber-shop.

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

None would divulge the substance of Mr. Davis's testimony. But Senator Ervin said the Hughes lawyer had "cooperated very well." In the past, Mr. 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 after today's session, and Senator Ervin said there was "very little doubt" that Mr. Rebozo would be called to testify in a public hearing when the hearings resume.