

# Hughes Link to Nixon Brothers Surmised

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Documents filed in court today indicate that Senate investigators are considering a theory that the men who broke into the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex in June, 1972, were trying to find out what information the Democrats had linking President Nixon's brothers to Howard R. Hughes.

Samuel Dash, chief counsel to the Senate Watergate committee, insisted after the documents were made public that the link between Mr. Hughes, the billionaire industrialist, and the Watergate burglary was only "one of a number of the-

ories" about the reason for the break-in.

Transcripts of the committee's private interrogation of aides to Mr. Hughes were released as part of a suit by a number of Hughes employees to prohibit the committee from questioning them in closed sessions.

Judge Aubrey Robinson Jr. of the United States District Court here dismissed the suit today, thus allowing the committee to proceed with its closed-door interrogations.

The committee's theory is based on the fact that Lawrence F. O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic National Committee at the time of the break-in, was

once a partner in an advertising agency that represented the Hughes Tool Company.

Mr. O'Brien's files were searched by the burglars, and an effort was made to place a tap on his telephone.

Throughout the Watergate hearings, two principal theories about why the Democratic headquarters was broken into have been developed. The first is that the Committee for the Re-election of the President

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wanted information about the Democrats' election strategy. The second is that President Nixon's supporters were trying to find derogatory information that could somehow be used against Mr. O'Brien.

The transcript showed several areas related to the Hughes empire that the committee was exploring. Among them were the following:

Whether the \$10,100 that agents of Mr. Hughes delivered

to Charles G. Rebozo, Mr. Nixon's friend, was given in return for political favors.

What the relationship was between John Meier, a former Hughes employe, and Mr. Nixon's brothers, F. Donald Nixon and Edward Nixon. The committee is trying to find out whether the Watergate burglars might have suspected that Mr. O'Brien knew about such a relationship.