

Hughes Deal For Air West Is Described

LAS VEGAS, Dec. 12 (UPI) — Robert Maheu, former boss of Howard Hughes' Nevada business empire, testified today for the second day before a federal grand jury investigating the 1969 Hughes takeover of Air West airlines.

Maheu, who was fired by Hughes the following year, spent nearly all of Tuesday before the jury, which government sources said was empaneled three or four weeks ago and has concentrated solely on the Hughes-Air West matter.

Waiting in an anteroom to testify was Las Vegas newspaper publisher H. M. Greenspun, who told newsmen he "might have some information . . . both from a personal and maybe from a newspaper viewpoint."

Greenspun was under subpoena from the grand jury, but earlier he appeared voluntarily at a Washington hearing conducted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC was understood to be investigating charges by some Air West stockholders that the price of their shares was deliberately driven down just before the sale.

It was not known whether the grand jury witnesses were being asked about contributions totaling \$100,000 from Hughes to President Nixon's re-election campaign. The money subsequently was returned to the Hughes organization.

A Senate Watergate committee investigator, Terry Lenzner, stated in a transcript made public this week in Washington that it has been charged that the Hughes Tool Co. received "special benefits" in return for the money, including "the President's approval of the sale of Air West airlines to Hughes."