

# Hughes Ex-Aide Indicted In Mining Claims Sale

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Jan. 14 (AP)—Former Howard Hughes aide John Meier and three others were indicted by a federal grand jury today on charges of conspiracy and tax evasion involving the sale of \$8.5 million in mining claims to Hughes Tool Co.

It was the second indictment of Meier, who was charged last August with two counts of attempting to evade \$200,000 in taxes in 1968 and 1969. The newest indictment supersedes the allegations for 1969 and adds a count involving alleged tax evasion for 1970.

Also indicted were Anthony Hatsis, 47, and James P. Cowley, 45, both of Salt Lake City, and Robert Kahan, 59, Los Angeles. Hatsis is president of Toledo Mining Co.

Meier was named in two indictments charging two counts of conspiracy and two counts of evading taxes for 1969 and 1970.

The indictment charges Meier with reporting income of \$56,916 for 1969 when he allegedly earned more than \$1.7 million with a tax liability of more than \$1.3 million. In 1970, Meier is accused of reporting income of \$42,226

when he allegedly earned more than \$583,000 with a tax liability of \$386,000.

Meier, 40, is free on \$100,000 bail on the original indictment. No new arraignment date has been set.

One conspiracy count charges him with obstructing the collection of income tax on the sale of mining claims by Las Vegas newsman Alan Jarlson to Hughes Tool. Jarlson has been indicted on tax evasion charges in that case and is scheduled for trial in March.

The second conspiracy charge alleges that Meier conspired with Hatsis, Cowley and Kahan to sell \$8.5 million in mining claims to Hughes Tool in 1969 and 1970, disguised \$4.8 million of the total as tax exempt profits and transferred the funds to a Dutch corporation.

The indictment says the funds were ultimately used by Meier and Hatsis. It also alleges that a portion of the profits were retained in the United States for the benefit of the defendants.

The indictment charges a trust by the name of Meier-Calliandra was established with a \$1.1 million bank credit.