

Report That Nixon Sought Hughes Gift

Washington

An employee of the Howard Hughes organization has told the Senate Watergate Committee that President Nixon personally suggested to him before the 1968 presidential election that he attempt to solicit a campaign contribution from the billionaire industrialist, according to Senate sources.

Richard G. Danner, a FBI former agent who now manages the Hughes-owned Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, is understood to have told the committee's staff in an interview that Mr. Nixon, in whose presidential campaign Danner was then working, had suggested the possibility of obtaining a donation of unspecified size from the Hughes organization.

Told of the source's account of Danner's testimony, Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said, "I deny that." He had no further comment.

A total of \$100,000 in \$100 bills was eventually delivered by Danner to Charles G. Rebozo, Mr. Nixon's close personal friend.

But both Mr. Nixon and Rebozo, who says he received the funds in two equal installments in 1970, have insisted publicly that the President was unaware of the contribution until after the 1972 presidential election.

During a news conference on October 26, the President was asked whether Rebozo's insistence that he had kept the knowledge of the Hughes' contribution from Mr. Nixon was "credible."

"I have refused to accept contributions myself," the President replied. "I have refused to have any discussion of contributions."

New York Times