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**HUGHES AIDE SAYS
NIXON ASKED GIFT**

**President Wanted Employee
to Seek Billionaire's Aid,
Senate Sources Report**

By **JOHN M. CREWDSON**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15—An employe of the Howard Hughes organization has told the Senate Watergate Committee that President Nixon personally suggested to him before Mr. Nixon's election in 1968 that he should attempt to solicit a campaign contribution from the billionaire industrialist, according to Senate sources.

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

A total of \$100,000 in \$100 bills was eventually delivered by Mr. Danner, after he went to work for the Hughes organization, to Charles G. Rebozo, Mr. Nixon's close personal friend.

But both Mr. Nixon and Mr.

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Rebozo, who says he received the funds in two equal installments in 1970, have insisted publicly that the President was unaware that the contribution had been made until after the 1972 Presidential election.

'Good Judgment'

During a news conference on Oct. 26, the President was asked whether Mr. Rebozo's insistence that he had kept 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."

Mr. Nixon added his belief that Mr. Rebozo had shown "very good judgment" in holding the money in a safe deposit box for three years before turning it back to a Hughes representative last June.

Mr. Danner has said in a deposition taken in connection with a civil suit against Mr. Hughes by Robert Maheu, a former Hughes employe, that the subject of a possible Hughes contribution to Mr. Nixon's campaign was first mentioned at a Washington luncheon sometime in 1968.

Served in Miami

The luncheon, he said, was attended by himself, Mr. Rebozo, and Edward P. Morgan, a lawyer representing some of Mr. Hughes's interests. Both Mr. Danner and Mr. Morgan are former agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who served together in Miami some years ago.