

Testimony Offered Court to Support Maheu's

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LOS ANGELES, April 3—Testimony from three witnesses was introduced in Federal court here today to support the contention that \$50,000 of Howard Hughes's money in an attaché case was placed at Hubert H. Humphrey's feet in a limousine during the political campaign of 1968.

Lloyd Hand, former chief of protocol; Joseph R. Cerrell, a political manager, and Gordon S. Judd, a Los Angeles lawyer, all testified that Robert A. Maheu, then a Hughes aide, met with Mr. Humphrey in the Vice President's limousine. Mr. Hand thought that Mr. Maheu had an attaché case; Mr. Judd's testimony indicated the case was left in the limousine and Mr. Maheu said months ago in a deposition that the case had \$50,000 in cash in it.

Mr. Humphrey has denied under oath that he ever received the campaign contribution. He was vice president when the incident allegedly occurred on July 29, 1968. He is now a Senator from Minnesota.

The evidence, some of it contradictory, unfolded as one part of the defamation action filed by Mr. Maheu against Mr. Hughes over a press statement by the industrialist that Mr. Maheu "stole me blind" while manager of the Hughes Nevada properties from 1966 to 1970.

Deposition Cited

In a deposition last summer, Mr. Maheu was asked by Mr. Hughes's lawyers to explain his handling of political contributions made in Mr. Hughes's behalf. One series of contributions involved \$125,000, and this included the money that he said he had given to Mr. Humphrey. Mr. Maheu testified at that time.

There was \$50,000 intended for Richard M. Nixon's Republican Presidential campaign. This was traced to S. G. Rebozo, Mr. Nixon's friend, who said that he had received the money but returned it to the Hughes organization after holding it in cash in a safety deposit box for three years.

There was \$25,000 passed along to Lawrence F. O'Brien, former Democratic National chairman, to go toward paying off debts of the Robert F. Kennedy campaign that ended with the Senator's assassination here in June, 1968.

Then there was \$50,000 that Mr. Maheu said that he had given to Mr. Humphrey as the two sat in the back seat of a limousine at the Century Plaza Hotel here.

In Mr. Maheu's deposition details about the Humphrey incident were sketchy. He was asked if he had handed the cash to the then Vice President, and he said that he had. He did not have the precise date.

Since the defamation trial opened here in February, the Hughes interests had focused on tracing money through Mr. Maheu's hands and alleging that he kept some of it.

The first of these was Joseph R. Cerrell, for 16 years active in political management for a series of politicians with candidacies before California voters including the Humphrey Presidential campaign of 1968.

He said that on the night of July 29, 1968, Mr. Humphrey attended a \$5,000-a-plate dinner with about 30 Democratic campaign contributors. Mr. Cerrell said that he saw Mr. Maheu that night. Mr. Maheu contributed a \$5,000 check to the Humphrey campaign that night.

Mr. Cerrell said that he was in the police car that led the Humphrey motorcade away

from the hotel. The motorcade stopped a short distance from the hotel, so Mr. Maheu was able to alight from the Vice Presidential limousine, the witness said.

Mr. Cerrell was asked if Mr. Maheu had anything in his hands. He replied, "I have no recollection of his carrying anything." But he added that he had not seen inside the limousine and so did not know if a briefcase had been left there.

Mr. Cerrell described in detail the route that the motorcade took in leaving the hotel. He said that Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Maheu and others had en-

tered the limousine inside a lower floor of the hotel building. This was contradicted by a later witness.

Mr. Hand, now senior vice president of T. R. W. Corporation, said that he also was present the night of the Humphrey fund-raising dinner at the Century Plaza and left the hotel in the back seat of the Vice President's limousine. He had the impression, Mr. Hand said, that Mr. Maheu left the hotel building inside the car and got out a short distance away.

Mr. Hand, who was chief of protocol during part of the Johnson Administration, said,

The money that allegedly was contributed to the Humphrey campaign fell into that category when Mr. Humphrey early this year denied under oath that he had ever received the money, or an attaché case or that he knew of any of his staff members receiving the money or an attaché case with the money.

The denial was made in response to written questions provided by both sides to the Maheu lawsuit.

Three Witnesses Produced

Mr. Maheu has produced three witnesses who corroborated elements of his story, and their testimony was given from the witness stand today.

Contention He Gave Humphrey \$50,000

"I do remember a conversation [in the limousine] between Mr. Maheu and the Vice President Mr. Hughes's concern about underground testing in Nevada."

But he did not remember any talk about a \$50,000 campaign contribution, Mr. Hand said. He also said that he had "an impression" that Mr. Maheu was going to make a large Humphrey campaign contribution but had no personal knowledge that one was made.

Asked whether Mr. Maheu had taken an attaché case to the car and left without it, Mr. Hand replied, "I simply don't know." But he said that he had "an impression" that Mr. Maheu

had left an attaché case.

"I just don't feel confident that I have a certain recollection," Mr. Hand said.

The third witness was Mr. Judd, a Los Angeles lawyer, who in the summer of 1968 was employed as an assistant to Jack Hooper, who was chief of security for the Hughes Nevada properties.

Mr. Judd said that he remembered being told by Peter Maheu, Robert Maheu's son, to take an attaché case that was locked to Los Angeles to be delivered to Robert Maheu. He was not told what was in the case, the witness said.

Mr. Judd said that he had de-

livered the briefcase to Mr. Maheu at the Century Plaza. He said that he had not seen and had not been told what was in it, although he had seen Mr. Maheu in another room with the case open.

Mr. Maheu left the suite with the briefcase, Mr. Judd said. The witness said that he had stepped onto the balcony to watch the activity below, and that from the 17th floor he had seen Mr. Maheu get into a limousine, ride a short distance and alight.

Mr. Judd said that Mr. Maheu had soon returned to the suite and said "mission accomplished" but offered no explanation of

what the mission had been.

While there was a common thread to the stories told by the three witnesses, events could not have occurred as they were described by each of them.

For example, Mr. Cerrell and Mr. Judd disagreed on the route by which the motorcade had left the hotel and as to where Mr. Maheu entered the limousine. But all agreed that Mr. Maheu had indeed ridden away from the hotel for a short distance with Vice President Humphrey that night.

Before the trial ends, Mr. Maheu will testify on this and other matters.