Who Got Hughes Gift---New Report

A Story of Money for Miss Woods

By Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward Washington Post

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President Nixon's former attorney has testified under oath here that portions of a secret \$100,000 campaign contribution from billionaire Howard Hughes were either loaned or given to the President's secretary — Rose Mary Woods — and to Mr. Nixon's brother Donald, according to informed sources.

The sources said Herbert W. Kalmbach, formerly the President's personal attorney, testified in secret recently that he learned of the alleged_gifts_or_loans_in_a_conversation_with Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, Mr. Nixon's close friend.

Kalmbach's testimony directly contradicted sworn testimony by Rebozo, who has insisted he kept the \$100.000 in a Florida safe deposit box for three years and then returned it to Hughes. It also contradicted testimony by Miss Woods, who has sworn that she never received any money from Rebozo.

The testimony by Kalmbach also contradicted a public explanation by Mr. Nixon of what happened to the \$100,000.

At a press conference last October 26, Mr. Nixon said Rebozo kept the money for three years and did "not touch it — because it was turned back in exactly the form it was received. I think that is a pretty good indication that he is a totally honest man, which he is."

According to several sources. Kalmbach has told both the Senate Watergate committee and the Watergate special prosecutor's office that Rebozo called him to the White House last spring for legal advice about the \$100,000.

Rebozo then told Kalm-

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bach that he had turned over part of the \$100,000 to Miss Woods and F. Donald Nixon for their personal use, according to the sources' description of Kalmbach's sworn testimony. The exact amount of money referred to could not be learned.

According to the sources, Kalmbach has testified that the conversation with Rebozo took place shortly after the latter learned last spring that the Internal Revenue Service was investigating the \$100,000 Hughes contribution.

When Rebozo asked him what he should do about the matter, Kalmbach advised that the IRS be told that part of the money went to Miss Woods and Donald Nixon, the sources said Kalmbach has testified.

Rebozo thanked Kalmbach for the advice but did not

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tell him if he intended in follow it, according to sources' account of Kalmbach's testimony. Several months later, Rebozo instructed Kalmbach never to reveal what had been discussed at the meeting, the sources said Kalmbach has testified.

Rebozo's attorney, William S. Frates, said yesterday that Kalmbach's testimony as reported would indeed contradict what Rebozo has sworn to previously. "I believe Rebozo." Frates said. "I believe that clients can cover up things, but I don't think he has."

Frates said he would discuss the matter with Rebozo and Kalmbach's attorneys before making a full statement.

Frates then called back late yesterday afternoon and said he had spoken with Rebozo. "He flatly denies this story," Frates said.

Kalmbach could not be reached for comment and his lawyer. Edward R. Morgan, declined to discuss the report.

Charles Rhyne attorney for Rose Mary Woods; said that "It's preposterous from what I know of her" that Miss Woods would have accepted any money from Rebozo. "No, I've never discussed it with her but she has said in a number of depositions that she has never gotten anything from Rebozo." Rhyne added.

According to Rhyne, Miss Woods was most recently asked about the matter during questioning under oath by the Senate Watergate committee staff several weeks ago. "She said she never had (received any money from Rebozo), that she didn't even exchange gifts at Christmas with him. although they are good friends," Rhyne said.