

Ex-Hughes Aide Swears Humphrey Thanked Him

Los Angeles

Robert A. Maheu testified here yesterday that the morning after the election in November, 1968, the Vice President, Hubert H. Humphrey called to express his thanks for \$100,000 in campaign contributions from Howard Hughes, then Maheu's employer.

Maheu has said he gave \$50,000 to Humphrey in a briefcase when they met in a limousine in Los Angeles on July 29, 1968. Humphrey, now a Senator from Minne-

sota, has denied that he got the money.

The other \$50,000 was issued from the Hughes companies in a check to Nevada Democrats, who passed it along to the Humphrey campaign, Maheu said.

Whether Maheu passed along the cash or kept it himself is an issue in the trial of his \$17.3 - million defamation action in federal court here against the Summa Corp., Hughes' holding company.

Maheu said Humphrey

had assured him that Hughes could be told that Humphrey would continue to assist Hughes in a campaign against nuclear weapons testing in the Nevada testing ground of the Atomic Energy Commission.

One of the many memoranda from the recluse billionaire to Maheu was produced in response to a subpoena by Hughes' attorneys. The two men communicated through these memoranda from 1966 to 1970, when Hughes lived in the

Desert Inn Hotel in Las Vegas and Maheu was his leading aide. The memo, handwritten, was undated. It said:

"Bob — There is one man who can accomplish our objective through Johnson and that man is H.H.H. Why don't we get word... to him on a basis of secrecy that is really, really reliable that we will give him immediately full unlimited support for his campaign to enter the White House if he will just take this one on for us. Let Me know."

The note was signed with the initial "H."

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