

Kalmbach Said to Link Nixon To Rebozo Query on Money

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Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's former attorney, has testified that Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo told him that Mr. Nixon personally requested that Rebozo and Kalmbach meet last spring to discuss what to do about an embarrassing \$100,000 cash contribution from billionaire Howard Hughes, according to informed sources.

It was at that meeting, The Washington Post reported yesterday, that Rebozo told Kalmbach that part of the \$100,000 had been either given or loaned to the President's secretary, Rose Mary Woods, and to Mr. Nixon's brother Donald for their personal use, according to Kalmbach's testimony.

According to several sources, Kalmbach has testified

that Rebozo sought Kalmbach's advice about the \$100,000 at their meeting at the White House on April 30, 1973, the date of a major overhaul of the White House staff. On that day, the President accepted the resignations of three top White House aides: H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John W. Dean III — along with the resignation of Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst.

"It (the Hughes money) was apparently a hot problem," said one source close to the White House who is familiar with Kalmbach's testimony. "Rebozo called Kalmbach down there and said the President wants you to give us some advice."

In describing the April 30 meeting, according to sources, Kalmbach testified that he concluded from Rebozo's statements that the President was aware that Miss Woods and F.

Donald Nixon had received some of the Hughes money. Kalmbach testified, however, that Rebozo did not specifically tell him that, the sources said.

Kalmbach's testimony directly contradicts previous statements made about the \$100,000 by the President, Rebozo and Miss Woods, all of whom have insisted the money was a campaign contribution that was returned intact to Hughes.

No White House spokesmen were available late yesterday

for comment on the report.

It could not be learned how much money was allegedly involved in the purported payments to Miss Woods and the President's brother.

Kalmbach has provided an account of his April 30 meeting with Rebozo to both the Watergate special prosecutor's

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office and the Senate Watergate committee, according to several sources.

Kalmbach, the sources said, testified that Rebozo sought his advice at the White House meeting soon after Rebozo learned that the Internal Revenue Service was investigating the \$100,000 contribution from Hughes.

Upon being told by Rebozo that the money was given to Miss Woods and Donald Nixon for their personal use, Kalmbach testified, his advice to Rebozo was that the IRS be informed of the facts, the sources said.

Rebozo then reportedly thanked Kalmbach for the advice and sought other legal advice. But he did not inform the other lawyers he talked to, William Griffin and Kenneth W. Gemmill, that the money had gone to Miss Woods or

Donald Nixon, according to sources.

Instead, Rebozo presented his basic story on the \$100,000, namely that he kept it in a Florida safe deposit box for three years. He has testified that he returned the money, or an equivalent amount, to a representative from Hughes in June last year on the advice of Griffin and Gemmill.

According to Kalmbach's testimony, Rebozo instructed him — after the money was returned — never to reveal what had been discussed at their meeting at the White House on April 30.

Meanwhile, Donald Nixon angrily denied yesterday that he got any money from Rebozo, the Los Angeles Times reported. "I never asked him for any money and never at any time received any . . ." Donald Nixon

was quoted. Attorneys for Rebozo and Miss Woods have denied that any of the \$100,000 went to either Miss Woods or Donald Nixon.

Kalmbach's story directly contradicts sworn testimony by both Rebozo and Miss Woods.

In addition, it contradicts Mr. Nixon's statement about the Hughes contribution at a Oct. 26 press conference. Then the President pointedly supported Rebozo's contention that the money was kept in the Florida safe deposit box for three years and returned.

"Now, with regard to Mr. Rebozo," the President said, "let me say that he showed, I think, very good judgment in doing what he did. He received a contribution. He was prepared to turn it over to the finance chairman when the finance chairman was appointed.

"But in that interlude, after he received the contribution, and before the finance chairman was appointed, the Hughes company, as you all know, had an internal fight of massive proportions, and he felt that such a contribution to the campaign might prove to be embarrassing.

"And I would say that any individual, and particularly a banker who would have a contribution of \$100,000 and 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."

The controversial \$100,000 from Hughes was delivered by an intermediary to Rebozo in two separate cash installments of \$50,000 each, one in 1969 and the other in 1970.

Investigators for the special prosecutor and the Senate se-

lect Watergate committee have assembled contradictory testimony on other matters relating to the money, including its purpose. Rebozo has said it was a contribution for the President's 1972 re-election campaign.

However, present and former executives for the Hughes organization have said the money was intended either for the 1968 Nixon campaign, the 1970 congressional elections or related to antitrust problems Hughes was having with the Justice Department.

Mr. Nixon and the White House have stated repeatedly that the President has never participated in any discussion of political contributions and had nothing whatever to do with the solicitation or the return of the \$100,000.

The \$100,000 Hughes contribution was first disclosed August 6, 1971, by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. Information about the contribution apparently had come from Hank Greenspun, publisher of the Las Vegas Sun, who had kept in his safe a number of Hughes memos obtained from Robert A. Maheu, deposed chief of the Hughes Nevada operations.

According to several sources, Kalmbach and former presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman, became involved at one point in attempts to elicit from Greenspun information about other Hughes memos.

Ehrlichman also reportedly sent Kalmbach to talk to Greenspun to see if information could be obtained from him about the relationship between Hughes and Democratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien. O'Brien once did public relations work for Hughes.

The Senate Watergate committee has been investigating the theory that the operation against the Democrats' Watergate headquarters was designed in part to find out about O'Brien's relationship with the Hughes organization.

Other sources with extensive knowledge of the Watergate case dispute this and maintain that the Watergate wiretapping — focused in part on O'Brien — and the burglary to photograph documents was simply a general political intelligence-gathering operation with no particular goal.