

Hughes Trial Told Of 'Humphrey Call'

Los Angeles

Robert A. Maheu's daughter testified yesterday that she eavesdropped on a 1968 telephone conversation in which then Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey expressed thanks for a \$100,000 Howard Hughes contribution.

Christine Maheu Jagers, called as a witness for her father in his \$17.5 million defamation suit against Hughes' Summa Corp., said Humphrey also pledged continued assistance to Hughes with regard to underground nuclear testing in Nevada.

It was not until about two months ago, when she read in a newspaper that an alleged \$50,000 cash contribution to Humphrey had become an issue in the case, that she told anyone she listened in on the call, Mrs. Jagers testified.

Maheu, deposed chief of Hughes' Nevada operations, has insisted he delivered the cash to Humphrey's limousine at the Century Plaza Hotel here in July, 1968. Humphrey has disputed the claim.

Another \$50,000 in checks was contributed on behalf of Hughes for Humphrey's

Fewer Favor Public Financing Of Elections

New York

A decline in backing for public financing of elections was reported last night by the Louis Harris Poll.

The poll reported that by a narrow 43 per cent to 37 per cent, a majority of the nation supports "having all federal elections financed out of public funds with strictly enforced limits on how each candidate for president, U.S. senator, or congressman can spend."

This marks a drop in the plurality support, which was 55-35 per cent in a Harris survey last November.

United Press

presidential campaign, evidence shows.

At the time, Hughes was enlisting aid to halt underground nuclear testing near his Nevada gambling casinos and other properties.

However, Summa Corp.

claims Maheu pocketed the \$50,000 cash earmarked for Humphrey. It has been cited as one alleged "theft" justifying Hughes' 1972 press conference remark that Maheu "stole me blind" and "the money is gone and he's got it."

She answered the phone. Mrs. Jagers testified, and a voice on the phone said the vice president was calling.

Mrs. Jagers said she called her father, and then listened in.

"I was excited that the vice president would be calling my father," she said. Mrs. Jagers said she was 15 at the time.

"The vice president said, 'I want to thank Mr. Hughes for the \$100,000,'" and "I will continue to be of assistance in underground nuclear testing," she recalled. "I didn't know what he meant by that."

She said she had not told anyone of listening to the conversation because "my dad wouldn't approve."

But she testified she violated his wishes out of "curiosity" and had also listened in on other conversations — including some with Hughes.

Los Angeles Times