

HUGHES INTERESTS RELATED AT TRIAL

Lawyer Describes Actions
He Took for Industrialist
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LOS ANGELES, May 2—A glimpse at the wide range of Howard R. Hughes's interests in shaping public affairs was given today in the trial of Robert A. Maheu's \$17.3-million defamation action against the industrialist's personal holding company, the Summa Corporation.

Among other things, according to sworn testimony, Mr. Hughes wanted to block racial integration of Las Vegas public schools.

Mr. Hughes said in a 1972 telephonic press conference of Mr. Maheu, once his Nevada operations manager, that he "stole me blind." For nine weeks the Hughes interests presented evidence to a Federal trial jury to prove truth as a defense and this week Mr. Maheu began to present evidence justifying his actions.

Among the items of evidence presented in Mr. Maheu's behalf was a deposition under oath taken on Feb. 21, 1973, from Thomas Bell, a Las Vegas lawyer who represented the Hughes interests during the period Mr. Maheu managed Mr. Hughes's Nevada empire.

Evidence Admitted

Over the objections of Mr. Hughes's lawyers, Federal Judge Harry Pregerson admitted into evidence a long list of actions that Mr. Bell testified he had been directed to undertake in Mr. Hughes's behalf.

Mr. Bell said that his orders mostly came from the Hughes' staff of male secretaries, whom he named as Howard Eckersley, John Holmes, Roy Crawford, Levar Myler and George Francum. He also had some instructions for Mr. Maheu, he said. He said he had never met Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Bell had been subpoenaed by Hughes attorneys for the deposition and ordered to produce his papers that showed his work assignments for the Hughes Nevada operations.

Mr. Bell testified he was told to ask then Gov. Paul Laxalt in 1968 to persuade Federal officials to let Mr. Hughes buy the Stardust hotel, from which he had been blocked by threat of antitrust action.