

## Maheu Tells of Delayina Article On a Donald Nixon Hughes Loan

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, May 15—Robert A. Maheu described today how he had tried unsuccessfully to prevent details of the "Hughes-Nixon loan" from being publicized before the 1960 Presidential election and said he had rebuffed a suggestion from Howard R. Hughes that some relationship be established between the Hughes Tool Company and the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Hughes's most important managers, but they split in 1970. Mr. Hughes later asserted in a news conference that Mr. Maheu "stole me blind." Mr. Maheu sued in Federal District Court here for \$17.3-million in defamation damages, and his statements today were part of his testimony in that

### Newspaper Article

He said that in 1960, during the Kennedy-Nixon Presidential campaign, Mr. Hughes asked him to come immediately to Los Angeles. When he arrived, he said, he was told that the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was about to publish an article on a \$205,000 loan that Mr. Hughes had made in 1956 to F. Donald Nixon, a brother of the then Presidential candidate.

Mr. Maheu said that "we were successful in delaying the story until after the election," but that the arrangement was destroyed when Richard M. Nixon and his campaign advisers decided to leak the story to a friendly columnist, Peter Edson.

### 'Sensitive Assignment'

Mr. Maheu said the column appeared "with many misstatements in it" and that the late Drew Pearson, who also had withheld publication of a column about the dealing, then decided to tell what he knew of the loan. Mr. Nixon was defeated by a narrow margin.

Mr. Maheu also testified that in 1960 Mr. Hughes wanted him to come from Miami to Los An-

geles, "I finally told him," he said, "[that] it was necessary for me to be in Miami because I was involved in a very sensitive assignment for an intelligence agency of the Government."

Mr. Maheu said it was the Central Intelligence Agency, but he did not describe the assignment.

His testified that in 1968, when Mr. Hughes and he were discussing the poor relationships between the Hughes companies and some Federal agencies, "Mr. Hughes asked me if I would try to make some kind of arrangement with the C.I.A. whereby some part of the Hughes Tool Company would become a front for the intelligence agency."

Mr. Maheu said Mr. Hughes had explained that he believed this would be a talking point for favors from Government agencies. Mr. Maheu said he had refused to undertake the assignment.

See also

SFC, SFCx