

Rebozo Blasts Hill Unit Staff

by Lawrence Meyer

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The Senate select water-gate committee staff is conducting an "exploratory witch hunt" seeking to "humiliate and embarrass him," lawyers for Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo charged yesterday in an amended lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court here against the committee.

Rebozo, President Nixon's close friend, charged in his amended suit that the staff is conducting "a prosecutorial form of investigation" that goes beyond the authority given by the Senate to the committee. The original suit, filed May 9, and the amended version filed yesterday seek "to quash two broad subpoenas that delve deeply into Rebozo's private financial dealings.

The committee has been investigating Rebozo in connection with a \$100,000 payment he received from billionaire Howard Hughes in 1969 or 1970.

Rebozo and his lawyer, William Frates, met with the committee May 9 and reached a tentative agreement under which Rebozo would have supplied much of what the committee sought in its subpoena. Rebozo, however, failed to turn over the materials on May 13 as required by the agreement. The committee now is contemplating contempt action against Rebozo.

In the amended suit, Rebozo charged that three committee staff members—assistant chief counsel Terry F. Lenzner, chief investigator Carmine Bellino and investigator Scott Armstrong—"maliciously and falsely misrepresented" that former Nixon re-election committee official Frederick C. LaRue had given "unsworn testimony before the investigative staff that he had never received" a campaign contribution given Rebozo by a food chain executive.

The Washington Post reported on May 10 that the committee had testimony that Rebozo had received \$50,000 from A.D. Davis, vice chairman of the Winn-

Dixie Corp., but that LaRue had testified that he never received the money from Rebozo.

"In fact," Rebozo's suit charged, "the actual testimony received by the committee investigators Frederick C. LaRue was that he had received the contribution in question from Plaintiff Rebozo as he had testified. At the same time these representations were being made (by the staff to the committee), these same investigators had corroborative testimony from A. D. Davis that he had received an acknowledgment and thank-you letter concerning his contribution from Maurice Stans (Nixon campaign finance director), to whom Plaintiff Rebozo had directed the contribution. The testimony of A. D. Davis had been put under seal."

Contrary to Rebozo's claim, LaRue has testified that he never received the Davis money from Rebozo, according to informed sources. However, the sources said that LaRue has acknowledged receiving a lesser amount of cash from Rebozo, but at a much later date than Rebozo says he gave LaRue the Davis money. "There is nothing to explain the whereabouts of the Davis \$50,000," said one source familiar with the matter.

In addition to accusing the staff of "calculated deceptions," the suit charges that Lenzner and Armstrong "followed their invariable method of attack on plaintiff Rebozo by disseminating their prevarications to the media."

The suit asks that the latest subpoenas against Rebozo be quashed on the grounds that "they are being used as a bludgeon by irresponsible members of the committee staff who are engaged in a harassing witch hunt" that violates Rebozo's civil rights and the constitutional right against unreasonable searches and seizures.