

Rebozo Paid Some of Nixon's Bills

Jack Anderson

At the same time that Bebe Rebozo was collecting secret cash contributions for President Nixon, the presidential crony also paid some of the President's bills.

We have now traced to Rebozo's personal account an \$11,978.84 check, which went to pay for improvements on the President's property at Key Biscayne, Fla.

Reliable sources also claim that Rebozo paid for a swimming pool, a pool table and architectural services for the President. We have not seen the canceled checks, however, for these expenditures.

The \$11,978.84 check, dated Aug. 6, 1969, and signed by Rebozo, was made out to Babcock Company, a Florida firm. A Babcock official, confirming receipt of the check, said it was payment for electrical, air conditioning and painting work on the Nixon home at 516 Bay Lane.

The official also confirmed receipt of two other payments for work at the presidential compound. On Aug. 7, 1969, an \$11,307.12 cashier's check was delivered to the company. The cashier's check, drawn on Rebozo's Key Biscayne bank, bears Richard Nixon's name as the remitter. We have established, however, that Mr. Nixon was not in Florida at the time.

Again, on Oct. 9, 1969, Babcock received payment for a \$6,299.44 bill, which the company had submitted to Rebozo for replac-

ing a roof and air conditioning ducts at another of President Nixon's Key Biscayne houses. We have been unable, however, to determine whose check was used in this transaction.

Sources familiar with the financial records also say that Rebozo paid for the presidential pool, pool table and architectural services, but we have been unable to obtain the exact figures.

It is an interesting coincidence, however, that these expenditures coincided with the delivery of the first of two \$50,000 cash bundles which billionaire Howard Hughes sent to the President. Richard Danner, a Hughes henchman, told us he delivered the cash to Rebozo at his Key Biscayne bank. It could have been in the summer or 1969, Danner said, but he couldn't be sure.

Hughes' former chief honcho, Robert Maheu, told us he was certain the first \$50,000 was delivered in 1969. To the best of his recollection, he said, it was in August.

Footnote: The White House did not respond to our inquiries. Rebozo, speaking through an intermediary, said he would have to check his financial records which he did not have at hand. We will be happy to publish their comments when we receive them.

Smuggling Syndicate—Chinese opium mandarins have organized a smuggling syndicate similar to the one run by the Corsican Mafia, which for years

has supplied most of the heroin on American streets.

The Chinese smuggling ring has its headquarters in Taipei, the capital of troubled Taiwan.

To the credit to Taiwan's police, they have kept the Chinese narcotics chieftains under close surveillance and are working with U.S. authorities to disrupt the opium operation. But ironically, it has been good law enforcement that has driven the independent ethnic Chinese drug smugglers into one tightly disciplined organization.

In the past few months, Hong Kong narcotics agents have intercepted several trawlers running opium to Hong Kong for conversion to heroin. These seizures slowed the heroin trade for six to seven weeks and forced up the price of heroin 100 per cent for a while, according to intelligence sources.

A Hong Kong agent also grabbed a supply of acetic anhydride, the chemical used to process opium into heroin. The confiscated chemical had been labeled "Salt Fish" to sneak it into Hong Kong.

The seizure was followed by police raids on three of Hong Kong's most important heroin laboratories.

All this police action finally led to hectic efforts to form a Chinese smuggling syndicate based in Taiwan. The Chinese narcotics dealers have developed a ruthlessly efficient organization, with ties to foreign banks.

But the Taiwanese police have doggedly kept on the trail of the narcotics smugglers, using sophisticated equipment to bug their meetings and phone calls.

Footnote: The United States has also put the heat on South Vietnamese and Thai authorities to make more drug arrests. With Oriental guile, some police have arranged with cab drivers to stash marijuana in their hacks. When an American fare is picked up, the hacker signals the police who arrest the unsuspecting American for possession of marijuana. This increases the number of arrests, although not quite in the way the United States had intended.

Sadat's Charity—Without congressional approval, President Nixon quietly authorized a \$10 million grant recently to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's favorite charity.

The \$10 million contribution in U.S.-held Egyptian pounds was sent to Waafa Wa'l Amal, the Loyalty and Hope Society, which is headed by Mrs. Anwar Sadat.

In a letter to Rep. Lester Wolff (D-N.Y.), the State Department conceded that the grant had been authorized "notwithstanding the absence at the time of formal diplomatic relations and the existence of other potentially applicable prohibitions."

But the money, though it may have violated the law, went for a good cause: relief efforts such as rehabilitating recent war casualties.

©1974, United Features Syndicate, Inc.