

# Manuscript Is Stolen

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The Manhattan apartment of author Thomas Kiernan was broken into and ransacked recently,\* about a week before Kiernan was to finish an "inside biography" of Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, one of former President Nixon's closest friends.

Thieves took 382 handwritten pages of Kiernan's manuscript on Rebozo, 13 letters and bank documents pertaining to Rebozo's connections with Mr. Nixon and 16 cassettes of tape - recorded conversations the author had with some 40 or 50 people he interviewed while researching Rebozo's life.

The thieves ignored wall paintings, a stereo, a television set and expensive jewelry.

"But they pried open the jewel box, just to see what was inside, I guess," Kiernan said in a telephone interview yesterday. "The whole place was ransacked . . . even the baby's bedroom."

Kiernan said what struck him most about the burglary was that the thieves broke into his apartment the day after he told his typist by telephone that he had the first draft of his Rebozo manuscript ready for typing.

The typist replied that she couldn't take Kiernan's manuscript until the next week.

"The thieves must have known I'd be gone most of the day and that my wife would be gone, too," Kiernan said. "I suspect they had my telephone tapped, I just can't think of any other way."

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Kiernan said his phone would ring once, then stop ringing. HE said that after a brief interlude it would ring again normally and that the caller (usually a friend) would wonder about the interruption just as he did.

"This thing lasted for some time, this business where the phone rang once and then went dead," Kiernan went on. "It stopped the day after the robbery."

Kiernan said that he left his apartment with his infant daughter about 3 p.m. on the day of the robbery. He said his wife was at work most of the day and early evening. He said they all returned about 10 o'clock that night.

"These were things the thieves could have figured out," Kiernan said, "by listening to our telephone conversations."

Kiernan, who has published 14 books, lives in a three-room apartment on the third floor of a five-story Madison avenue apartment building. Kiernan said it would be easy for thieves to get in the front door of the building.

Kiernan said he had been at work on the Rebozo book for Farrar, Straus & Giroux for almost a year. He said he made trips to Florida, Washington, California and Las Vegas, where he interviewed several hundred people about Rebozo.

Editors for Farrar, Straus said they expected Kiernan's manuscript about December 1. Kiernan said the theft means he will have to go back to many of the people he interviewed and write the first draft over again. He said he expects to lose six months as a result of the burglary.

The New York county district attorney's office confirmed the theft and said it was investigating the burglary. It said it had no suspects in the case.

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