

Manuscript on Rebozo Stolen in Manhattan

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The Manhattan apartment of author Thomas Kiernan was broken into and ransacked last Nov. 4, about a week before Kiernan was to finish an "inside biography" of Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, one of former President Nixon's closest friends, New York police said yesterday.

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

The thieves ignored paintings, a stereo rig, a television set and 10 or 15 pieces of ex-

pensive jewelry in his wife's jewel box.

"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 the first draft of his Rebozo manuscript was ready for typing.

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

"The thieves must have known I'd be gone most of Election Day (Nov. 4) 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."

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 year-old 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.

On returning home the night of election day, Kiernan discovered that both locks on his apartment door "had been ripped right out of the door." He said he walked into an apartment that was a shambles, with doors open and

belongings scattered everywhere.

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

Editors for Farrar, Straus said they expected Kiernan's manuscript about Dec. 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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See also clippings on similar theft from the office of Bill Gill, ABC (folder of notes on W/gate, cassettes, etc.) Gill had been looking into subpoena by Ervin Committee of records of Rebozo's bank. "One of the missing tapes contained Mr. Gill's summary of conversations he had in Miami with sources who gave information about the [Ervin] committee's subpoena of certain bank records in Miami.... [Gill] has spent a considerable amount of time there in recent weeks, looking into the subpoena of the records of the bank with which Charles G. Rebozo ... is associated."

SFC, NYT, WXP, 23 Aug 73

Chronology entry 22 Aug 73 includes other refs.