

Rebozo and Hughes Money

Miami

Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, a friend of Richard Nixon, says he once thought of using \$100,000 from the late Howard Hughes to help

with the legal defenses of Watergate figures H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and Charles Colson.

But he discarded the idea as the Watergate crisis in tensified

and later returned the money to Hughes.

Rebozo's comments on this and other aspects of his relationship with Nixon are contained in a 313-page deposition by Rebozo. It was made public Thursday by District Judge Sidney Aronovitz despite Rebozo's objections.

The Key Biscayne banker gave the deposition in his \$5 million libel suit against the Washington Post.

The suit stems from a 1973 story by the Post alleging that Rebozo sold \$91,500 worth of IBM stock held as collateral at his bank while knowing it had been stolen.

Rebozo denied the charges, and he was cleared by federal bank investigators.

Rebozo also said in the deposition that Nixon's obsession with information on any connection between Democratic national chairman Lawrence O'Brien and Howard Hughes led to the break-in at the Democratic national headquarters.

But Rebozo said Nixon was not informed about the break-in and coverup and was "badly advised" by Haldeman and Ehrlichman after the 1972 burglary.

Rebozo also said about Nixon that "people seemed to think all we talked about were government and politics and all that, but that is the last thing we talked about, if at all."

He said he often spent more time entertaining Nixon's family than he did with the President.

Rebozo denied a report by Senate Watergate investigators that work done on Nixon's Key Biscayne compound was paid for by secret funds, "laundered" by Rebozo in various bank accounts.

He said Nixon's millionaire industrialist friend Robert Abplanalp contributed money for various renovations and that golfer Arnold Palmer donated a putting green.

Rebozo said he had little to do in shaping any of Nixon's policies.

"He (Nixon) sometimes played the devil's advocate with you, but he never asked, 'What do you think about this?'" Rebozo said.

He said the only time he was directly involved in a presidential matter was when Nixon asked whether he should resign.

Rebozo said he replied with the question, "Do you think you should?"