

Action on Maheu Suit

Carson City

The Nevada Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the personal interview of Howard Hughes in a \$50 million lawsuit filed against him by former aide Robert Maheu.

The court dissolved a district court order that barred Maheu's lawyers from taking pretrial depositions from the recluse. In a 4 to 1 decision, the court said District Judge Howard Babcock exceeded his jurisdiction when he stopped the depositions.

Maheu, 56, an attorney and a former FBI agent, sued Hughes after he was fired in 1970. He charged his character was damaged when he was ousted as head of Hughes' Nevada operations. Maheu's salary was \$500,000 a year.

Supreme Court Justice David Zenoff said in a concurring opinion: "It is difficult to predict if and when Howard R. Hughes will be available for deposition.

"His vagaries are common knowledge."

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