

OF THE STARS



TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

Don Tell

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 portant than his being a major property owner now.

I know that it's more fashionable to root against a man with \$2 billion, but I think it's high time the people of Nevada start thinking positively of the man and his organization which is providing over 8,000 jobs to this community.

What I am blistering over, of course, is the near insane attempt by Clifford Irving, et al, who tried to put over a never authorized autobiography of Howard Hughes. If you think I am pre-judging the events too early, let me sum up the latest information.

1. Swiss authorities said they will arrest Irving and his wife on a few counts of possible fraud.

2. \$650,000 of the McGraw-Hill, Life Magazine payment which was supposed to go to Hughes, never got to Hughes. Irving admitted his wife withdrew checks for the entire amount under a pseudo-name of H.R. Hughes.

3. Swiss banks in Zurich claim they have clamped down on \$450,000 of these same monies.

4. Irving admitted spending \$50,000 of this money. Sources say he is scrambling to raise the missing \$200,000.

5. Irving's long time attorney, Martin S. Ackerman, withdrew from the case claiming it was best for Irving to be represented by a CRIMINAL lawyer. His new lawyer, Maury Nessen, is an expert criminal attorney.

6. The editor of Life Magazine was reported to be "crushed" when he heard the news that the \$650,000 was cashed.

When Mr. Hughes thought that a false autobiography of his life's events might reach the mass public, he became upset. This was enough reason for him to face the press, via telephone, and tell his side. When his voice was heard, one reporter said that was all the identification he would need. "I would know that voice anywhere," said he. The other newspapermen checked and rechecked the voice they were listening to and all were firmly convinced they were talking to Howard Hughes.

That was enough for me. I believed it was Hughes for a number of reasons. First of all the Hughes Tool Company has acted above board on all financial transactions in this state. Why should they start playing games? When Howard Hughes said buy the Landmark Hotel, think about the countless numbers of subcontractors that were about to go out of business unless someone came in and paid the bills.

Howard Hughes, in my opinion, calls all the major shots in his company. His word to buy or sell at a particular price is not questioned. The Nevada Gaming Commission didn't have to see Hughes, face-to-face, when he was buying. Suddenly they all want to see him when he requests new licensing for Hughes officers to run six Nevada casinos. What an inequity.

To add insult to injury to Mr. Hughes and his fine organization, a local paper, The Las Vegas Sun, came out with these two speculations right after the Hughes telephone interview.

"Was this the voice of Howard Hughes," the sons of the Sun asked. Possibly there was a computer voice that answered all those questions so accurately. This blabbering speculation was neatly introduced by the Sun to, in my opinion, confuse the people, the Gaming Commission and our Governor. The Sun never, since the ouster of Robert Maheu, reported the facts about Howard Hughes and the Hughes Tool Company in an unbiased, journalistic way. Always the innuendos of negativism were in-

jected. Shame!

The other interesting possibility on this whole Clifford Irving mess is that it was instituted by some disgruntled ex-Hughes employee. According to Time Magazine, now a more than interested entity, reported that "Irving somehow obtained some or all of the material (for his book) in a computer printout." The computer printout of Hughes' life was actually ordered and completed about four years ago. Someone mentioned that quite possibly Robert Maheu had access to this computer printout. We won't speculate any further but it would be more than interesting to see the Irving manuscript and take note of how Hughes "really" felt about his key employees, both present and those also accounted for.

It'll make some interesting reading anyway.

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