

A Book by Hoffa Accuses Fitzsimmons of Mob Link

By PETER KIHSS

James R. Hoffa, who has been missing since July 30, has charged Frank E. Fitzsimmons, his successor as president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with "selling out to mobsters" and "making vast loans from the billion-dollar teamster pension fund to known mobsters."

Mr. Hoffa's charges were made known yesterday by his son, James P. Hoffa, and Sol Stein, president of Stein & Day, in presenting a book that they said the elder Mr. Hoffa was working on when he disappeared. Entitled "Hoffa: The Real Story, by James R. Hoffa," it was written "as told to" Oscar Fraley, a sports writer and author of other books.

At a news conference at the Overseas Press Club in the Biltmore Hotel, Mr. Hoffa's son, wearing a black mourning tie with his light gray suit, said that he believed his father had been murdered by a "ruthless conspiracy."

Epilogue Is Quoted

The son, a lawyer, declined at the news conference to suggest motives or persons involved but in an epilogue in the book, written by Mr. Fraley, he was quoted as follows:

"The only motive big enough had to come out of the union. The powers that be had too much to lose if Dad won in 1976 and then found out from the books what they'd been doing with the pension-fund money."

The elder Mr. Hoffa had planned to run again for the union presidency.

In Washington, Mr. Fitzsimmons's office said that neither he nor his public relations spokesman would be available yesterday, when a request was made for comment.

Mr. Hoffa's accusations against the man he picked as his successor in 1971, while Mr. Hoffa was serving a Federal prison term for attempted jury fixing and pension fraud before President Nixon commuted his sentence that Decem-

ber, were as follows:

"I charge Fitzsimmons with political influence peddling and conspiring with John Dean and Charles Colson of President Richard Nixon's 'Watergate taff' to prevent me from re-aining my office.

"I charge him with selling out to mobsters and letting known racketeers into the teamsters.

"I charge him with black-jacking union officials into line by giving \$7-million in annual organizing funds only to people who promise to support him.

Sent to 'Siberia'

"I charge him with sending Hoffa supporters among the teamster officials to 'Siberia' so they couldn't influence delegates to the 1976 convention.

"I charge him with awarding a \$1.3-million teamster 'public relations' program in 1973 to two men with criminal records.

"I charge him with permitting underworld establishment of a union insurance scheme which in one year was a rip-off to the tune of \$1,185,000 in the New York area alone and in which his own son, Don, participated on a national level.

"I charge him with making vast loans from the billion-dollar teamster pension fund to known mobsters.

"I charge him with winning teamster support by giving regional union officials powers that belong to the international executive board.

Hoffa Loans Recalled

"I charge him with stripping my wife and my son of union posts as a further means of undermining my influence."

Mr. Hoffa asserted "the Teamsters' Central States, Southeast and Southwest Area Pension Fund has become the biggest mob target," with em-

pter Harry Davidoff," a plan requiring truck employers to pay \$40 a week for each employe to buy individual insurance policies for them and to build a severance pay fund.

Mr. Hoffa said that the State Insurance Department charged that the payments had been "siphoned off by outrageous commissions and administration fees," and that the insurance should have cost only \$52,546, instead of \$1,238,274.

He said that Mr. Ostrer had hired Mr. Fitzsimmons's son Don, who had been "peddling vending machines for a hoodlum-owned company," and the latter brought more than 60 teamster locals in seven states into the plan.

Statement by Lawyer

Julius November, a lawyer for Mr. Ostrer, said yesterday that challenges in State Supreme Court and the Appellate Division had upset the regulation involved in the State Insurance Department's citation, which was still under discussion with the department.

He said that Mr. Ostrer had repaid the money in the Canadian case; that a Federal Court conviction against Mr. Ostrer mentioned by Mr. Hoffa was awaiting decision on a motion for dismissal or new trial, and that a New York County indictment against Mr. Ostrer also cited in the book had been withdrawn on a motion by the prosecution.

Mr. Hoffa charged that Mr. Colson, as President Nixon's special counsel, had conspired with Mr. Fitzsimmons to impose a ban on Mr. Hoffa's union activities until 1980 in return for projected yearly teamster legal fees of \$100,000. Mr. Colson has called such charges "false and malicious."

When Mr. Nixon commuted Mr. Hoffa's sentence, he imposed the condition that Mr. Hoffa stay out of union activities until 1980.

In the book's epilogue, Mr. Fraley says that Mr. Hoffa charged that his so-called "foster son," Charles O'Brien, had become a "turncoat," lining up with Mr. Fitzsimmons, and that the "foster son" description had been "fabricated" so Mr. O'Brien could visit Mr. Hoffa in the penitentiary.

Also participating in the news conference was C. Edward Lawrenson, executive director of the National Association for Justice, a prison reform group in Washington that is to get all of Mr. Hoffa's earnings from the book. Publication had originally been scheduled for next February, but was advanced. The first printing consists of 50,000 copies.

ployers of 500,000 teamsters contributing more than \$200-million a year.

He wrote that "during my years as general president, I made loans to what the Government labeled suspicious characters, if not charging them with being outright mobsters." But he asserted "we had damned few defaults," and added, "which is more than can be said now."

While he was in Lewisburg penitentiary, he said, he refused to help Anthony Provenzano, who had headed a Hoboken local, to keep a union pension threatened because of an extortion conviction. Since then, he said, Mr. Provenzano has been involved in Florida building projects that have had more than \$5-million in pension loans.

Regarding his insurance charge, Mr. Hoffa cited Louis Ostrer, who received a five-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty in 1969 to "swindling a Canadian insurance company out of \$338,000."

He said that Mr. Ostrer sold to New York Teamster Local 295, "dominated by labor rack-