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Ousted White House counsel John Dean III, in his testimony Wednesday, may have shed some light on the mysterious disappearance of Harold Gibbons from the top echelon of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Dean recited the list of "enemies" kept by the White House and Gibbons' name was close to the top. Those listed as "enemies" supposedly were due for harassment, including income tax review. We don't know if Gibbons was subjected to IRS harassment, but his role in the teamsters' union was downhill all the way following President Nixon's re-election.

PRESIDENT NIXON'S CLOSEST FRIEND in labor is Frank Fitzsimmons, president of the teamsters. Need we say more? Following the election, Gibbons first was stripped of his most prestigious role in the union, director of the Central Conference of Teamsters, a job that went to Chicago's Ray Schoessling. Subsequently, with Fitzsimmons pulling the strings from Washington, Gibbons was removed as chief executive of his St. Louis local, head of the Joint Teamster Council in St. Louis and the Missouri-Kansas Conference of Teamsters. Only post Gibbons now retains is his office as international vice president, which is little more than a title. Gibbons, in view of his loss of power, prestige and salary, may have been the No. 1 victim of the "enemies" list.