

# Nixon Tapes Linked to Hoffa Suit

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The production of presidential tapes and documents could become a key issue in a suit filed last week by former Teamsters President James R. Hoffa against President Nixon.

Attorneys for Hoffa filed a motion in U.S. District Court here yesterday attempting to speed up the suit because of their wide-ranging requests for such materials. Under normal procedures, the discovery process in a civil suit cannot begin until 45 days after a suit is filed.

Hoffa is attempting to overturn a condition attached to his release from prison barring him from seeking union office until 1980. His attorneys charge that President Nixon acted for "impermissible and illegal purposes" when he banned participation in union politics as a condition of commuting Hoffa's sentence in 1971.

A speeded-up process is necessary, Hoffa's attorneys said yesterday, because Hoffa plans to run for the presidency of a Teamsters local

this November.

"It is expected that the defendants . . . will object to the discovery of certain matters and that the legality of the condition attached to Hoffa's settled only after an appeal.

The tapes the lawyers say they intend to seek from President Nixon include all "conversations concerning Hoffa's release from prison." The attorneys also announced their intention to take depositions of numerous persons, including former White House aides Charles Colson and John W. Dean III concerning the commutation conditions.

Also named in the suit is Attorney General William B. Saxbe. The lawyers said they intend to request that he produce documents related to the Hoffa case.

The U.S. attorney's office here has filed a motion suggesting Mr. Nixon be dismissed, claiming that he cannot be sued in his official capacity as President. A hearing has been scheduled for April 9 by U.S. District Court Judge John H. Pratt on the government's motion and Hoffa's motion for an expedited discovery process.

The suit filed last week contends that the ban against future union politics by Hoffa was the result of a deal between incumbent Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons and Colson.