

# Felon's Cash Gift To Nixon

## Washington

President Nixon's re-election campaign got a \$30,000 secret cash contribution from a convicted felon, Miami real estate developer Calvin Kovens.

Kovens was sentenced to prison along with then-teamsters Union President James R. Hoffa for defrauding the union's pension fund.

The cash contribution was revealed yesterday in documents released by the Nixon campaign committee.

Kovens, Hoffa, and five others were convicted after a three-month trial in Chicago in 1964. Kovens, given three years for his part in the fraud conspiracy, staved off imprisonment for several years with appeals.

## PAROLE

He was released on parole early last year, before serving his complete term.

Kovens, parole came to public attention last summer when documents obtained by the Senate water-gate committee reportedly showed that White House counsel Charles W. Colson, President Nixon's friend Bebe Rebozo, and former Senator George Smathers had taken an interest in his early release.

The documents included a memorandum from Colson to former White House counsel John W. Dean III and the transcript of a telephone conversation between Colson and Smathers dated Dec. 30, 1971.

Smathers, the transcript reportedly shows, told Colson that releasing Kovens from prison could help Mr. Nixon win Jewish votes in the Miami area:

"I was talking with Bebe about it," the transcript shows Smathers telling Colson, "and said 'Bebe, it looks to me that this would be a pretty good thing to do.'

... He's (Kovens) the most popular Jew in Dade County (Miami) ..."

## MEMO

Colson passed the transcript along to Dean with a memo saying "This has to be handled with extreme care" but that Smathers "makes a very good point and I would assume if there is anything we can do properly, we should."

Kovens was paroled eight days after Smathers called Colson. The U.S. Parole Board reportedly listed medical reasons for his release.

*Washington Post*