

Fitzsimmons Says Hoffa Lied About Nixon Gifts

Washington

Teamster president Frank E. Fitzsimmons called James R. Hoffa "a damn liar" yesterday for saying the union contributed \$60,000 to \$70,000 to President Nixon's re-election campaign instead of the \$18,000 it reported to the government.

Newsweek magazine quoted Hoffa this week as saying he had been told that Teamster business agents were assessed \$1000 each for the Nixon campaign last year. Hoffa also said the union asked "friends" in Las Vegas who had borrowed money from the Teamster pension fund to also contribute to the campaign.

Fitzsimmons acknowledged giving \$4000 himself, but said former Teamster president Hoffa had had "no way of knowing anything about what this international

union does" since Hoffa went to prison in 1967 for pension fund fraud and jury tampering.

"When he says he knows certain things about donations of this international union being greater than what was reported, he's a damn liar," Fitzsimmons told a news conference.

When asked if the 2 million-member union, largest in the nation, had reported all its campaign contributions, Fitzsimmons replied, "Absolutely, every quarter."

Hoffa has said he plans to

run against Fitzsimmons for Teamster president in 1976 if he can get a parole restriction lifted. It bars him from holding union office until 1980.

Although Fitzsimmons was Hoffa's hand-picked successor, the present Teamster leader acknowledged that relations between them have soured since Hoffa went to prison.

"Reports that we are close and friendly and in constant contact are not true," Fitzsimmons said.

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