

Hoffa Sues Nixon Over That Union Office Ban

Washington

James R. Hoffa sued President Nixon in federal court yesterday in a bid to lift a presidential ban that forbids the former Teamsters Union president from running for a union office.

The suit, which names Attorney General William B. Saxbe as co-defendant, appeared to be Hoffa's first effort toward regaining the union presidency he held from 1957 to 1971, when he resigned while serving a prison term for jury tampering and mail fraud.

The suit also alleged that

former presidential counsel Charles Colson, now under indictment in the Watergate case, persuaded Mr. Nixon to make the ban part of the bargain when he commuted Hoffa's 13-year sentence

The suit alleges Colson, who left the White House in January, 1973, and is now the Teamsters' chief lawyer conspired with current Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons "to make Colson general counsel of the Teamsters and assure that Fitzsimmons would retain his position as general president of the Teamsters free from challenge for office by

Mr. Hoffa."

Hoffa, 61, entered the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa., on March 7, 1967, but he did not resign the union presidency until June 20, 1971. The Teamsters elected Frank Fitzsimmons to succeed him in July, 1971, and named Hoffa president emeritus for life.

Mr. Nixon's commutation order prohibited Hoffa from running for union office or otherwise engaging "in direct or indirect management of any labor organization prior to March 6, 1980."

United Press