

# White House Told to Yield Data on Hoffa

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A federal judge here ordered the White House yesterday to turn over documents and records related to the conditional clemency granted former Teamster leader James R. Hoffa.

U.S. District Court Judge John H. Pratt directed Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Katz to phone William F. Matthews, chief of White House central records, "and tell him to show up [Thursday] morning with as much of the material as he can produce."

Hoffa's lawyers are seeking White House records in their attempt to overturn the condition of Hoffa's pardon, that he not engage in "direct or indirect management of any labor organization" until March 6, 1980.

In a deposition made public Tuesday, former White House counsel John W. Dean III testified that he had originated the restriction in a discussion with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell shortly before Hoffa's release from federal prison on Dec. 23, 1971.

Dean testified that Mitchell had asked him for a memorandum "to explore and raise if there was a feasible possibility" of conditional clemency, "and what the precedents were." Dean said he also sent a memo to President Nixon about the condition, but not

Mitchell's "letter of a device," which made no mention of it.

Hoffa's lawyers had subpoenaed White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. to supply certain evidence by 11 a.m. today. In court yesterday, Katz asked that the subpoena be quashed because, he said, Haig is not the custodian of the documents.

Pratt rejected Katz's motion after Hoffa's attorney, David Rein, pointed out that the subpoena allows Haig to send a representative. The broad subpoena would not be pressed, Rein added, if the few documents relating to Dean's deposition are supplied.

Matthews could bring in the documents, Pratt suggested, and Rein and Katz could "sit down and discuss them." When Katz insisted he needed time to study the situation, Pratt said, "This isn't settling the Israeli war. It's a pretty simple matter."

"I'm not familiar with the records kept in the White House," Katz protested.

"A lot of other people aren't either," Pratt said, "but this seems relatively easy."

If the government wants to object today, Pratt said he would be available to make an "in-camera inspection" (secret) of documents and decide the matter. "In the meantime," Pratt said, "if Gen. Haig wants to show up instead of Matthews, we'd be glad to have him."

Hoffa contends that the ban on union activity stems from a conspiracy between President Nixon, Teamsters head Frank Fitzsimmons and Charles Colson, former special counsel to the President. Under the alleged scheme, Hoffa is unable to compete with Fitzsimmons for union office, the Teamsters supported Nixon's re-election and they further retained Colson after he left the White House.



**JAMES R. HOFFA**  
... appeals condition