

Board to Give Hoffa A Parole Rehearing

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WASHINGTON, July 7 — The United States Board of Parole agreed today on the basis of "new and substantial information" to rehear the parole request of James R. Hoffa, the imprisoned former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Reliable sources reported that the new information that prompted the board's action was that the 58-year-old Hoffa had relinquished all of his offices in the union.

Today's meeting of the board was held in secret, as are virtually all its meetings. The petition for reconsideration filed

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HOFFA WILL GET PAROLE HEARING

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by Hoffa's lawyer was part of what George J. Reed, the board president, called "the confidential record" and was not open for public inspection.

The board did not disclose the vote on Hoffa's petition, but its rules required the "yes" of only two of its seven members to force reconsideration. The board set Aug. 20 as the date when it will rehear the appeal.

Hoffa Needs 4 Votes

Mr. Reed said that today's action did not mean that Hoffa would be paroled. In an interview yesterday, he explained that all the board would do was "decide if his appeal does contain new and substantial information." He announced today that the board found it did.

At the hearing Aug. 20, Hoffa will need four of seven votes to win a parole.

The board denied Hoffa a parole last March 31 and ruled that it would not consider any application for his parole again until June, 1972. Under the rules of the board, however, an inmate may submit an application for appeal based on new information after 90 days. Hoffa filed his application June 25.

Hoffa was notified of the board's decision in the Lewisburg, Pa., federal prison, where

he is serving two consecutive terms totaling 13 years for mail fraud and tampering with a jury.

Today's action comes in a framework of increasing interest in the teamsters union on the part of the Nixon Administration. Just yesterday, Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson told the teamsters' convention in Miami Beach that theirs was a "great union."

President Nixon sent the convention a letter expressing his "appreciation for the contributions" the union makes "to our way of life." Earlier, on June 21, he visited the teamsters executive board in Miami Beach, assuring the members that his door would be "always open" to the union's new president, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, a long-time Hoffa lieutenant.

Union Has \$89-Million

The teamsters union has two million members and \$89-million in its treasury. It is thought to be largely Democratic among its rank-and-file membership but has been generous to Republican candidates on the state and local level.

Some teamsters see the Administration's enthusiasm for their union as an attempt to garner electoral and financial support next year.

While a Justice Department spokesman said today that the department had had no communication with the parole board on Hoffa's current petition, there have been recent

indications that Hoffa and his supporters have been in touch with the department.

At the beginning of June, William Loeb, publisher of The Manchester (N. H.) Union Leader and a champion of Hoffa's pleas for release, visited Attorney General John N. Mitchell. Around the same time, James P. Hoffa, the union leader's son, called on Will Wilson, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the criminal division.

There have been two other recent developments concerning Hoffa:

¶ Last March, there were allegations by an unidentified informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Hoffa had been approached by unnamed persons who offered, for \$1-million, to try to persuade Senator John L. McClellan to support his parole. The Arkansas Democrat acknowledged that he had received a mysterious "suggestion" that he might be approached but said he remained opposed to Hoffa's release. Senator McClellan was the chairman of a committee that investigated labor racketeering in the nineteen-fifties and focused attention on Hoffa.

¶ In April, Hoffa was taken from his cell in Lewisburg to New York to testify before a Federal grand jury investigating alleged improprieties involving the teamster pension fund.