

Hoffa Promises Granddaughter a Horse

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ST. LOUIS, Dec. 24 (AP)—James R. Hoffa walked with his 8-year-old granddaughter down a tree-lined street in the suburb of Glendale the day before Christmas and they talked about Black Gold.

That is the riding horse he bought her while he was still in Federal prison at Lewisburg, Pa. The former teamsters' union president was released yesterday when President Nixon commuted his 13-year sentence on jury tampering and mail fraud convictions.

As they strolled along, he in a windbreaker and khaki pants, they waved to neighbors who were outdoors on the mild holiday morning.

"You will have a horse," said Hoffa to Barbara Jo Crancer, his granddaughter. "A quarter horse. He still needs some breaking in. The picture is here, the horse will be here in the spring."

He had disclosed his Christmas gift early.

Quarter horses, so-called for their high speed at short distances (about a quarter of a mile), were developed on Western ranges for great endurance under the saddle.

Comes Down Whistling

Hoffa, 58, chatted with newsmen even while his attorney, Morris Shenker, was saying there would be no interviews. As he came downstairs to meet them after a night's sleep at his daughter's home, he was whistling.

"You look just like a little kid," said Josephine, his wife. But Hoffa did not hear her. He was talking about the frequent diet of sauerkraut, beans and pork he ate during his

57 months in prison. He lost 22 pounds.

He was asked if he thought a stipulation in his parole that he not participate in the running of the union until 1980 was fair. He paused, said, "I don't know," and continued walking hand in hand with Barbara Jo.

He said he "would certainly want to" continue his life's work in labor, but added: "I don't know until we see the details of the stipulations."

Will Report Monday

He said he was to report Monday to parole officials in Detroit, where he will make his home.

"The only thing we know about the conditions of the parole is what we've read in the papers," he said.

"It's very difficult to know your family's growing up, the children getting older and your wife is sick," he said. "We're appreciative of the fact that he [Nixon] saw fit to release me so I could be with my family."

Mrs. Hoffa, who had a heart attack earlier this year and reportedly had a mild seizure Wednesday night, was cheerful as she served coffee to newsmen. She gave some impromptu kisses to her husband.

"I never gave up hope," she said. "We give grateful thanks to President Nixon."

Three previous appeals for parole had been denied.

"This is the nicest Christmas we've ever had," she said last night after her husband arrived.

Loeb Prediction

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 — William Loeb, the conservative

newspaper publisher who was one of the most powerful forces pressing for the release of James R. Hoffa from prison, said today that now that the former labor official was free, he would quickly become "an active figure in American life."

Mr. Loeb hinted that legal proceedings might be brought to lift the condition of Hoffa's release that bars him from resuming labor union activity for eight years.

Mr. Loeb, who was interviewed by telephone from his home in Pride's Crossing, Mass., said that consideration is being given — by him, at least — to such legal action.

"If we can clear up some of the restrictions on his release," he said, "he'd be back in control of the teamsters in short order."

Mr. Loeb, who is publisher of New Hampshire's most influential newspaper, The Manchester Union Leader, said Hoffa telephoned him about 4:35 P.M. yesterday, about one-half hour after he was released from prison.

For years Mr. Loeb was an ardent supporter of President Nixon until the President announced he planned to go to China. Then the publisher denounced him in a front-page editorial.

Mr. Loeb said today that Mr. Nixon's clemency toward Hoffa was "just another example of Mr. Nixon's stalling until he was forced by public pressure to do this."