

Hoffa Produces Mitchell Affidavit Disclaiming Parole Restrictions

By Selig S. Harrison
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Former Teamster President James R. Hoffa yesterday stepped up his battle to get back into union politics by producing a sworn statement in which former Attorney General John N. Mitchell disclaimed recommending the parole restrictions that bar Hoffa from union office until 1980.

The affidavit bolstered Hoffa's contention that the bar was the result of White House political intervention on behalf of incumbent Teamster President Frank E. Fitzsimmons.

President Nixon commuted a combined 13-year sentence for mail fraud and jury tampering on Dec. 23, 1971, reducing the term to the 6½ years Hoffa had already served.

But Mr. Nixon granted the parole on condition that Hoffa not engage in "direct or indirect management of any labor organization" until 1980.

Attorney General William B. Saxbe prompted the Hoffa disclosure yesterday by saying that he had been approached by a member of Congress with a letter from Hoffa's son, an attorney, seeking a full pardon. But Saxbe said he will not respond to the request.

"I certainly am not going to intervene in this," Saxbe said, adding that he found "no indi-

cation along the line that these restrictions will be removed."

Hoffa can take the issue to the courts as he has threatened to do, Saxbe declared.

In a prompt response issued through a Washington group identified as the National Association for Justice, Hoffa contended, "The conditions placed upon me did emanate from the Justice Department, nor were they placed upon me at the insistence of the Justice Department."

To back up the claim, he released a copy of an affidavit sworn before a Kings County, N.Y., notary public on Oct. 15, 1973, in which Mitchell declared that neither he "nor, to my knowledge, any other official of the Department of Justice during my tenure as At-

torney General initiated or suggested the inclusions of restrictions in the presidential commutation of James R. Hoffa."

While he is grateful for the commutation of his sentence, Hoffa said, "I particularly resent those persons who had a hand in depriving me of my livelihood as a labor leader in an illegal manner."

This was regarded as a reference to Fitzsimmons and former White House aide Charles Coloson, now a counsel to the Teamsters Union.