

Report of Big Payoff To Nixon

New York AUG 1 1977

The Justice Department believes former President Nixon received \$1 million in cash from Teamsters Union President Frank Fitzsimmons in exchange for barring James Hoffa from seeking elective office in the union, Time Magazine reported yesterday.

The magazine, quoting unidentified government sources, said government informers have claimed New Jersey Teamster boss Anthony Provenzano ordered — in
Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

early January, 1973 — that \$500,000 in cash be delivered to a White House courier in Las Vegas.

Provenzano allegedly told an associate he collected the money at Fitzsimmons' request and that another \$500,000 had been provided for Nixon, also on Fitzsimmons' orders, by Allen Dorfman, a convicted Chicago labor racketeer. Dorfman had been acting as an adviser to the Teamster's Union pension fund.

According to the magazine, the second \$500,000 payment was made in Las Vegas on Jan. 6, 1973, and was arranged for by Nixon White House aide Charles Colson.

Hoffa vanished from a restaurant parking lot outside Detroit on July 30, 1975.

The FBI interviewed Colson about the alleged payoffs last February, the magazine said, but Colson denied any knowledge of the alleged payoffs.

Although at least one payment was said to have been made before that, the magazine said the \$1 million may have been what Nixon referred to in the March 21, 1973, White House meeting with White House counsel John Dean about the Watergate burglars' demands for huge sums of hush money.

According to a transcript of a tape of that conversation, Nixon said to Dean: "What I mean is you could get a million dollars ... And

you could get in it cash. I know where it could be gotten ... We could get the money. There is no problem in that."

Nixon had commuted Hoffa's 13-year prison sentence for jury tampering and mail fraud in December, 1971, with the proviso that he have nothing to do with running the union until March, 1980, when

his sentence would have expired.

According to the magazine, Justice Department officials now plan to question three other former Nixon associates, John Ehrlichman, H.R. Haldeman and John Mitchell about the alleged payoffs. All three men currently are serving prison terms for Watergate-related offense.

Associated Press