

Unionist Comes Out For Nixon

since his release from Lewisburg, Pa., penitentiary where he served 4½ years for conviction on charges of jury tampering and teamsters union pension fund fraud.

United Press

Washington

Former Teamsters President James R. Hoffa, freed from prison last December when President Nixon commuted his 13-year sentence, endorsed the President for re-election yesterday saying he didn't believe his freedom was dictated by political considerations.

"I would say President Nixon is the best qualified man at this time to be President of the United States . . ." Hoffa said. Asked if that could be considered an endorsement for Mr. Nixon, Hoffa replied, "that would be my position."

Hoffa said he doubted recurring allegations that the President had chosen to release the popular former labor leader just before Christmas in a bid for labor support.

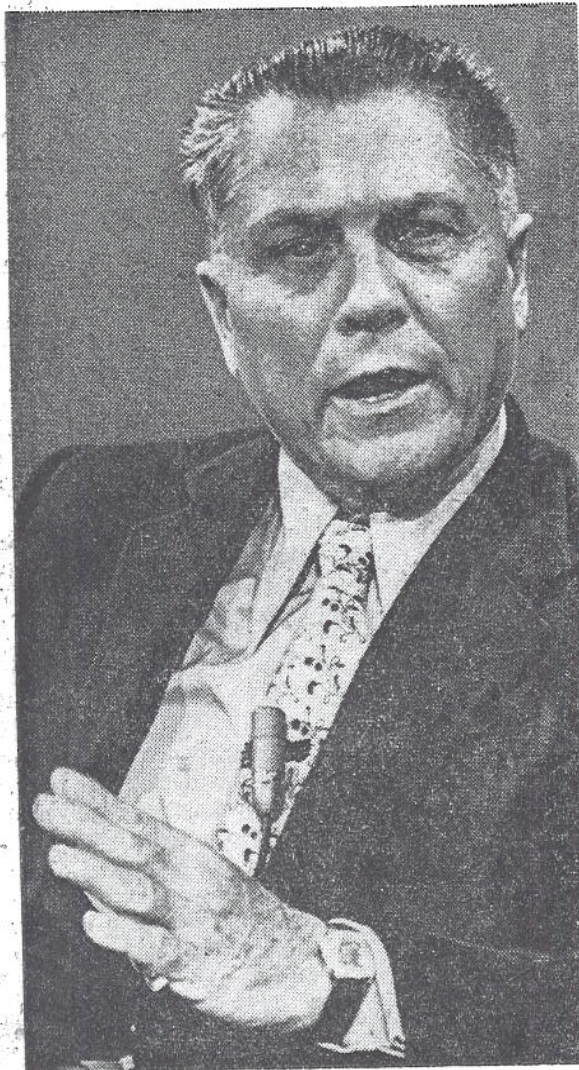
"I don't believe that," Hoffa said. "I think President Nixon read about the case and realized I had been in prison long enough and released me. I don't believe political considerations . . ." were a factor.

Hoffa made his remarks on ABC's "Issues and Answers." It was his first formal television appearance

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SFChronicle

Hoffa's Choice



UPI Telephoto

EX-TEAMSTER PRESIDENT HOFFA
'Release not dictated by politics'