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Hoffa**Can't Seek
Union Post**Washington **SFChronicle**

A federal judge refused yesterday to overturn a presidential restriction barring former Teamsters chief James R. Hoffa from returning to union office.

U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt said President Nixon acted within his constitutional powers in commuting Hoffa's prison sentence in December, 1971, on condition that the former Teamsters president not participate in union affairs until 1980.

Pratt ruled this "was within the President's pardoning power and that under the circumstances presented the condition was reasonable and not violative" on Hoffa's constitutional rights.

"Nothing is lost," Hoffa said in Detroit. "We lose a battle here, but there is still the war. I believe the judge was in error."

David Rein, Hoffa's attorney, said he will file an appeal.

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