

Hoffa 'Lawyer,' in Paris, Won't Talk About Pact

PARIS, Sept. 13 (AP) — William L. Taub, who acted as "legal counsel" to James R. Hoffa during the former union leader's attempt to travel to North Vietnam, declined today to answer direct questions about his background.

Mr. Taub, who is not a lawyer, has been involved in a number of incidents in which he used the names of famous persons without permission, according to investigative records obtained by The New York Times.

Mr. Taub said today that he was involved in complicated discussions in Paris and did not know when he would return to the United States. He said he was prepared to make a statement when he returned to the United States.

"The matter on which I am in Europe relating to Mr. Hoffa has to do with prisoners of war. The important thing is still accomplishment of results. I regard everything else as insignificant," Mr. Taub told a reporter.

When asked if he had talked

to North Vietnamese officials on his current trip to Paris, Mr. Taub replied: "I am not able to give you any comment on that whatsoever."

Mr. Taub said he viewed the attacks on him as unwarranted and added that he was sorry a controversy had developed over him, in view of the serious nature of his mission.

His trip "was never intended to be a publicity junket," he went on, saying that he had never volunteered any informa-

tion to news media, but had kept Government officials fully informed about his efforts to obtain release of prisoners.

Hoffa, former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, said yesterday that he had taken Mr. Taub at face value "after he sought me out in April."

The North Vietnamese diplomatic mission and a spokesman for Hanoi's peace talks delegation said there had been no meetings with Mr. Taub.