

Haldeman Linked To Hoffa's Release



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THE OUSTED White House major-domo, H. R. Haldeman, personally pulled the strings that opened the prison doors for ex-Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa.

The incarcerated Hoffa had been promised he would be free by Thanksgiving 1970. This was considered so certain that his wife was permitted to telephone the happy news to him in the warden's office at Lewisburg, Pa., penitentiary.

But for a year, the Justice Department balked at recommending Hoffa's release and the parole board turned him down twice. Not until ex-White House aide Murray Chotiner complained to Haldeman was action taken.

"It appears that nothing substantive has occurred," wrote Chotiner, "it is suggested that it should not take this long to perform if there is going to be any performance."

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CHOTINER'S note to Haldeman was dated November 3, 1971. By Christmas eve, Hoffa was out of prison. His sentence was commuted by President Nixon after hundreds of thousands of dollars had been contributed to the Nixon campaign and after Hoffa pledged to "deliver" the Teamsters Union into the Republican fold in 1972.

One source close to the Teamsters claimed the union had raised more than \$750,000 for Mr. Nixon, most of it in cash, during the 1968 and 1972 campaigns. Much of the money came from Las Vegas gam-

bling lords whose casinos were financed by the Teamsters' pension fund, swore our source.

Another source close to the President told us the amount was smaller. But all sources agreed that a huge cash collection was turned over to former Attorney General John Mitchell, in behalf of the Teamsters, by crime-connected Allen Dorfman.

Mitchell flatly denies receiving any Teamsters contribution. "I was in the business of expending money, not receiving it," he told us.

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DORFMAN has been linked by the New York Times to Mafia mobsters who allegedly have been trying to cut themselves into a Teamsters' medical program on the West Coast. The Times quoted from an FBI affidavit, which claimed Dorfman put Hoffa's successor as Teamsters president, Frank Fitzsimmons, together with the Mafia mobsters in California last February.

After his meetings with the mobsters, Fitzsimmons flew back to Washington with President Nixon on the presidential plane. Dorfman, meanwhile, began serving a prison term for pension fund fraud and jury tampering.

Footnote: A confidential file indicates that Hoffa suspected Mitchell and Fitzsimmons of deliberately holding up his release. Chotiner refused to comment, saying he "does not discuss matters involving the White House."