

New Report Of Teamster Aid to Nixon

New York

Former Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa says the union contributed far more to President Nixon's re-election campaign than the \$18,000 previously reported, according to Newsweek magazine.

The November 26 issue of the magazine, published yesterday, stated that Hoffa did not disclose a precise figure, but said it was higher than \$18,000 and lower than \$175,000—the figure he mentioned in a civil court deposition last summer.

According to Newsweek, Hoffa said he was told that Teamster business agents were assessed \$1000 each, and that Las Vegas "friends who had borrowed from the union's pension fund were also urged to contribute.

"We do business with them," the magazine quotes Hoffa as saying about the Las Vegas interests. "Friendly relations, let's put it that way."

Newsweek also reported that two staff members of the Senate Watergate committee majority counsel Samuel Dash and an assistant, Terry Lenzner — made a secret trip to Las Vegas last week to investigate the alleged flow of Teamster money into the Nixon campaign.

The magazine reported that Hoffa said he was double-crossed by Frank Fitzsimmons, who succeeded him as Teamster president, and by former White House aide Charles Colson over his release from prison — which Hoffa said was an attempt to gain Teamster votes.

After urging President Nixon to commute Hoffa's prison sentence for jury tampering and pension fund fraud, Fitzsimmons and Colson arranged for a provision barring Hoffa from holding union office again — thus allowing Fitzsimmons to remain in the union's top job, according to Newsweek's account of what Hoffa said.

Colson — whose law firm now represents the Teamsters for \$100,000 a year — has denied any such deal.

United Press