

Hoffa Says Union Gave Nixon Election More Than Listed

Former Teamsters President James R. Hoffa said the union contributed far more to President Nixon's re-election campaign last year than the \$18,000 it has listed with the government, Newsweek magazine reports.

In an interview published in this week's edition of the magazine, Hoffa said he understood that the Teamsters funneled \$60,000 to \$70,000 into the President's campaign.

The magazine also said that in a deposition in a civil suit last summer, Hoffa testified that the union had organized contributions of about \$175,000 to Mr. Nixon's campaign. Hoffa lowered that figure in the Newsweek interview, but he maintained it still was far above the union's official report.

According to Newsweek, Hoffa said he had been told that Teamsters business agents were assessed \$1,000 each for the contributions, and that "friends" in the gambling capital of Las Vegas, who had borrowed from the union pension fund, were also urged to contribute.

Asked about the Las Vegas contributions, Hoffa was quoted as saying, "We do business with them. Friendly relations—let's put it that way."

Newsweek reported that Senate Watergate committee chief counsel Samuel Dash and assistant counsel Terry

Lenzner made a secret trip to Las Vegas to "trace the alleged movement of Teamster related money into the Nixon campaign."

Hoffa had been serving a 13-year prison term for jury tampering and fraud when his sentence as commuted by President Nixon after the former labor leader had served about a third of his jail time.

Hoffa told the magazine that one condition of his release (that he refrain from labor organization work until 1980) had been engineered by Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons and former White House aide Charles Colson.

Colson, whose law firm recently got a Teamsters retainer, told Newsweek that "the version that I sprung Hoffa to get Teamster political support is crazy."