

Court Rules Dean to Talk About Hoffa

A federal judge here yesterday ordered former White House counsel John W. Dean III to tell attorneys for former Teamsters union President James R. Hoffa whether he discussed with other members of the executive branch a condition that was attached to Hoffa's release from prison.

U.S. District Court Judge John H. Pratt set forth guidelines under which Dean would have to answer such questions from Hoffa's attorneys but not necessarily say what advice or recommendations were made in the case.

Government attorneys had prevented Dean from testifying by invoking a general attorney-client privilege on all those conversations.

Hoffa had filed a civil suit in an attempt to lift the restriction that bars him from seeking union office until 1980. He claims the ban is illegal and was the result of a conspiracy between his successor, Teamsters President Frank E. Fitzsimmons, and former White House aide Charles W. Colson.

The judge's guidelines also apply to depositions sought by Hoffa from U.S. Pardon Attorney Lawrence M. Traylor and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Earlier this month, Attorney General William B. Saxbe ordered Traylor not to answer any questions about details of conversations Taylor had with Mitchell at the time Hoffa was pardoned in December, 1971.

Traylor also was ordered not to provide any documents or materials relating to the case, but Pratt ordered the government to submit the materials "in camera" to the court by Monday to determine which, if any, are privileged.

Traylor has said that Hoffa's pardon was first drawn up without the condition attached, and that it was later added before the pardon was signed by President Nixon.