

Dean Says Hoffa Ban His Idea

Washington

Former White House counsel John W. Dean III has testified that he suggested the restriction that bars former Teamsters leader James R. Hoffa from union activities until 1980.

Dean said he originated the idea during a discussion with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell shortly before Hoffa was released from federal prison on Dec. 23, 1971.

In a deposition taken last week by Hoffa's attorneys, Dean said he acted alone without consulting President Nixon or any other administration official, including then-White House aide Charles W. Colson.

Hoffa has filed a civil suit to lift the restriction that was imposed by Mr. Nixon when he granted the former Teamsters president an executive order for clemency. Hoffa was released from prison after serving less than five years of a 13-year sentence for jury tampering and mail fraud.

The suit alleges that the stipulation prohibiting union activity by Hoffa for ten years was designed to protect Teamsters president Frank E. Fitzsimmons from being forced out of office by Hoffa.

The suit also alleged that it resulted from a conspiracy between Fitzsimmons and Colson, who was hired as the union's counsel after leaving the White House.

Dean offered no explanation for recommending the condition or the procedures that were followed in including it in Hoffa's pardon.

U.S. Pardon Attorney Lawrence Traylor previously testified that the pardon was first drawn up without the condition attached, and that the condition was later added before the pardon was signed by the President.

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