Nixon frees James Hoffa

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The Seattle Times
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By LORI BROWN

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WASHINGTON - (AP) - President Nixon said he would sign legislation releasing the sentence of James R. Hoffa, the powerful Teamsters Union leader, after he was convicted in the Lufthansa heist.

In a statement Wednesday, the president said the release of Hoffa was an important step in the fight against organized crime.

Although Hoffa has been in prison for more than 30 years, his release would mark a significant milestone in the investigation of the Lufthansa heist, in which scores of union members were reportedly involved.

Hoffa, 80, walked out of prison Wednesday after spending more than 30 years in prison, according to reports. He was released under the National Labor Relations Act, which allows the president to grant early release to union officials who are found to have committed serious labor law violations.

Hoffa is a member of the Teamsters Union, which is the largest union in the United States. He has been a union official for more than 30 years, and has been involved in numerous labor disputes and investigations.

The release of Hoffa was welcomed by many in labor circles, who said it was a step forward in the fight against organized crime.

James R. Hoffa

Hoffa's release is also a victory for President Nixon, who has been a vocal critic of organized crime for many years. In 1970, Nixon signed a law that allowed for the early release of union officials who had been convicted of serious labor law violations.

The Lufthansa heist, which occurred in 1978, was one of the largest heists in history. Scores of union members were reportedly involved in the heist, and many were later convicted of various crimes.

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