



—Staff cartoon by Alan Pratt.

Night Sports Final

Nixon frees James Hoffa

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Nixon today commuted the sentence of James R. Hoffa, imprisoned former Teamster Union boss, allowing his release immediately from the federal penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa.

The Justice Department, which made the announcement, said Hoffa had already been released.

Hoffa, 58, walked out of prison a free man after serving four years, nine months of a 13 year sentence for jury tampering and mail fraud involving a Teamsters pension-loan scheme. On three occasions the United States Parole Board denied parole, the last time just last August.

Hoffa first sought parole in November 1969, then again last March.

HE WILL continue to be under the supervision of a federal probation officer until March of 1973, the Justice Department said.



James R. Hoffa

Mr. Nixon's action in commuting Hoffa's sentence was based on the recommendation of Attorney General John N. Mitchell and Lawrence M. Traylor, pardon attorney.

The condition of the commutation is that Hoffa "not engage in the direct or indirect management of any labor organization prior to March 1980," the commutation said.

If Hoffa violates the condition, he will be re-imprisoned and must serve out his full sentence.

Although Hoffa has been in prison less than five years, the commutation reduced his sentence to six and one half years which with time off for good behavior, made him eligible for immediate release.

Hoffa has an excellent prison record, the commutation noted, and "has maintained a good attitude toward supervisory officers and has maintained close family ties."

THE COMMUTATION noted that Hoffa's wife of 34 years has been recovering from a heart attack.

There had been various reports during the day that Hoffa's release was imminent.

Hoffa announced last June from his cell at Lewisburg that he would not seek reelection as president of the Teamsters, a post he had held for 14 years, even while serving his prison sentence.

The resignation paved the way for the election of Hoffa's close friend and associate for 30 years, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, who had been running the 2 million-member union as Hoffa's proxy while Hoffa was in prison.

It was reported that Hoffa consented to step down only after Teamsters Union officials agreed that he would receive a \$75,000-a-year pension for himself for life and that the union would continue his wife's \$40,000-a-year salary as director of the Teamsters women's political arm.

The fight for Hoffa's freedom was led by his son, James P. Hoffa, a Teamsters lawyer in Detroit. He appeared for his father each time the Parole Board considered freeing the elder Hoffa and last May held a series of meetings with then-Assistant Attorney General Will R. Wilson, head of the Justice Department's criminal division. Neither would disclose what they discussed.

Closing markets

Dow Jones: Down 3.69

The Seattle Times

Largest daily and Sunday circulation in Washington

36 PAGES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1971

10¢

Jury finds Haga guilty, recommends life sentence

By LARRY BROWN

A Superior Court jury today found Eric L. Haga guilty of first-degree murder in the strangulation deaths of his wife and her 7-month-old daughter.

The jury recommended against the death penalty. Thus Haga will be sentenced to life in prison.

THE JURORS began deliberating Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Judith Haga, 22, and the daughter, Peri Lynn, were found dead at the Haga home in Kent July 6, 1966.

The prosecution contended that Haga committed the crimes because his wife had been unfaithful to him, he did not believe he was the father of his youngest daughter and he wanted life-insurance money to buy a sports car.

The defense argued that the crime was committed by a prowler or possibly by the man who was Mrs. Haga's

lover at the time the Hagas separated for a few weeks more than a year before the crimes.

Defense witnesses said the couple was very happy during the months prior to the killings. Haga said he is a very sound sleeper, and found the victims in other rooms of the house after he awoke.

FOLLOWING the murders, a coroner's jury returned a verdict of "homicide by strangulation by persons known." The panel said there was insufficient evidence to return a more definite verdict and recommended that the Sheriff's Department continue the investigation.

Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll and his staff studied the case and decided there was not sufficient evidence to file charges.

But in August this year, after two friends of the Haga

family testified before the county grand jury, Prosecutor Christopher T. Bayley filed the case.

The defense contended the state had no evidence that was not available in 1966.

Haga was taken into custody by county police following the verdict and booked into the county jail. He had been free on \$10,000 bail.

The defendant is expected to appeal the verdict.

Haga's minimum term will be set by the State Board of Prison Terms and Paroles. The lowest possible minimum on a first-degree murder conviction is 20 years.

With a 20-year minimum term the defendant would be eligible for parole consideration after 13 years and 8 months, unless Judge Howard J. Thompson imposes consecutive terms for the two crimes, Deputy Prosecutors James E. Warme and Lee Yates said.



Eric L. Haga left the courtroom after he was convicted today. (Another photo, A 3.)

Stadium foes have enough names to put issue on ballot—Ruano

By LOU CORSALETTI

Enough signatures of citizens opposing construction of a county stadium have been obtained to ensure placement of a stadium initiative on the September, 1972, ballot, Frank Ruano announced today.

Ruano, chairman of Citizens Against Stadium Hoax (CASH), said his group plans to continue its petition drive. It also hopes to obtain a preliminary injunction by the first week of January against further expenditures

on the stadium project.

Ruano displayed petitions containing 20,661 signatures. A total of 20,224 valid signatures are needed to place the initiative on an election ballot.

The bulk of signatures are of South King County residents, but there is representation from throughout the county.

Ruano said there are thousands of signatures on petitions that have not been returned.

Ruano said additional signatures will be solicited before the January 21 deadline.

The initiative would ask voters whether they want to cancel authorization for \$40 million in stadium bonds.

Ruano said he will seek a change of venue for the hearing on the CASH motion for an injunction. "This is a political issue, and the least we will settle for is a visiting judge," Ruano said.

County Executive John D. Spellman announced Tuesday that a \$1.8 million contract has been awarded to Naramore, Skilling & Prager

for design of a domed stadium at King Street. The design work is to be completed in time for construction bids by July 1.

Ruano accused Spellman and other officials of ridiculing the initiative process. "We are researching whether Spellman has committed a misdemeanor by his acts," Ruano said.

Earlier this year, Ruano failed to obtain enough signatures to place a recall measure against Spellman on an election ballot.



DECREASING SHOWERS

Weather Service 2:30 p. m. forecast: Showers, occasionally snow or mixed with snow, decreasing tomorrow. High, 42; low tonight, 35. Small-craft warnings. Chance of showers: 80% tonight; 30% tomorrow. Airport high yesterday, 46; low overnight, 36. (Report, C 12; pass, ski report, B 2.)

You'll find inside

SMELTER—A slightly modified—but stronger—final order in the Tacoma Smelter case has been issued by the State Pollution Control Hearings Board. A 14.

TIRE TREADS—If the tread on your tires is less than 2/32nds of an inch thick, you'll be in violation of a new state law beginning next month. The Times Troubleshooter reports. A 19.

SCHOOL LEVY—A \$38.4 million levy will be on the February 8 ballot, the Seattle School Board decided in a split vote yesterday. A 16.

KOREA—President Chung-Hee Park may proclaim martial law if the National Assembly refuses to give him broad powers to meet the threat of North Korea's reported war preparations. C 11.

CRITICIZED—Congressman Benjamin Rosenthal said the nation's Better Business Bureaus serve as agents of the business community and delude American consumers. A 2.

CANCER WAR—President Nixon authorized an all-out war on cancer by signing into law a \$1.6 billion bill for research and treatment. A 2.

Arts, entertainment A 10, 11
 Bridge column B 4
 Business B 6 to 8
 Classified ads C 4 to 11
 Comics A 8, 9
 Crossword puzzle C 6
 Date-line A 9
 Dear Abby C 12
 Deaths, funerals C 12
 Editorials A 12
 Erma Bombeck C 2
 Horoscope C 5
 Peter Max C 7
 Maritime A 6
 C 1, 2
 Dorothy Neighbors B 1 to 4
 Sports A 16
 Troubleshooter B 5
 TV, radio C 12
 Vital statistics C 2, 3
 Women's news C 2, 3

Friends of needy find ways to raise money

By RAY RUPPERT
 Religion Editor

Holiday-time contributions to Neighbors in Need hovered just below \$100,000 today, brought there by the ingenuity of people who found unusual ways to raise money.

With \$6,347 recorded yesterday by workers at the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the total since the special emphasis on Neighbors in Need began December 6 was at \$99,113.

This was for contributions received in Tuesday's mail. Workers counting and recording the gifts were confident the total would be well over \$100,000 today.

Neighbors in Need began in November, 1970, as a volunteer, community, all-faiths effort to provide food for families suffering in the economic downturn.

The 36 food stations now are providing food for 15,000 to 20,000 persons a week. The food banks are in the suburbs such as Bellevue as well as in city neighborhoods such as Ballard.

A housewife sent \$8 as "money gleaned from the 5-, 10- and 15-cent coupons off the price of products that I include in my shopping list."

It took a little more effort, she said, "but I'm so happy that I've earned this sum in

Help your



Neighbors in Need

my own way... We'll continue to do all we can and I'll keep clipping those coupons."

Another Seattle woman has a gift shop with the profits to go to her mission, said her sister. But she and her friend the money should go to Neighbors in Need.

Another family held an "auction" at a party and raised \$14 for Neighbors in Need.

Children who did not knock at a woman's door also helped add to the Neighbors in Need fund. The woman sent \$5 "in honor of my neighborhood kids." She added, "Being ill and in bed, I told them if they would not knock on my door, I'd donate to Neighbors in Need."

"They kept their promise. I'm keeping mine." Checks totaling \$620 and a memorandum were sent by the Seattle-area Tupperware dealers. Jerry Myers, distrib-

utor, said the money was a portion of profits for special sales demonstrations in the dealers' homes.

"We hope this brings some small bit of happiness to the needy of the Seattle area," Allers wrote, "and we congratulate your newspaper on the great community service with your well-written columns about Neighbors in Need."

Because Neighbors in Need is an extraordinary response to an extraordinary community need, above and beyond traditional Christmas appeals, The Seattle Times is giving special emphasis to it during the holiday season.

Checks or money orders should be made out to the Neighbors in Need Trust Fund. Money should be sent to Neighbors in Need, 314 Fairview Ave. N., Seattle 98109.

Those who want to give food in addition to or instead of money can deliver it to the Neighbors in Need warehouse at Pier 91 or to any of the cooperating churches. Addresses are available from Neighbors in Need, East 5-9800.

(Names of all contributors recorded through the remainder of the week, except those who wish to be anonymous, will be published in The Sunday Times.)

Mayor vetoes new contract with Humane Society

By SAM R. SPERRY

Mayor Wes Uhlman today vetoed a proposed contract between the city and the Humane Society for enforcement of Seattle's animal-control law.

The proposed contract, approved by the City Council Monday in a 5-4 vote, had drawn critical remarks from Waldo J. Dahl, Humane Society president. (Details, A 9.)

Deputy Mayor John Chambers said the veto will allow time for mediation seeking to arrive at an agreement

under which the society will continue to enforce the animal-control law.

Chambers said representatives of the society met early today with the mayor and agreed to the mediation effort and to continue the present contract—due to expire the end of the year—for the first two months of the coming year.

Chambers will direct the mediation effort for Uhlman. He said he will call together representatives of the society and interested groups, including critics of the society,

"to attempt to develop a consensus" for a new contract.

Chambers explained that had the mayor signed the ordinance authorizing the proposed contract there would have been no time for negotiations. He said it is hoped mediation can produce a contract calling for better enforcement of the animal-control statute and a neutering-spaying program. Public membership in the Humane Society and stronger animal-control laws also are goals, he said.

"The Humane Society is very interested in this course of action," Chambers said. Asked if City Council members will be invited to participate in the mediation, Chambers said he was "not prepared to respond to that."

The deputy mayor said he knows of no effort by any city agency to develop a contingency plan for city takeover of animal-control should mediation fail.

Chambers described the issue of animal control as "very emotional."

Dockers will stay on job until Jan. 10

WASHINGTON — (AP) —

Pacific Coast longshoremen agreed today to extend their present contract until January 10, heading off a possible resumption of the 100-day strike on Christmas Day.

This agreement was announced by J. Curtis Counts, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

"The parties are exerting every possible effort to reach a settlement of their dispute. As a result of the present attitude, it is obvious progress toward a settlement has been made," he said.

Counts made the announcement after conferring with the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union and the Pacific Maritime Association in San Francisco. The negotiations were recessed until Monday. (Earlier details, A 6.)

City ready to ask second Blue Streak parking lot

The city today said it will ask the state and federal governments to pay for the development of a 1,000-car North End parking lot to be used in the Seattle Transit System's successful but limited Blue Streak express bus service.

The project would cost about \$3.5 million, Robert Lavoie, director of the city's Department of Transportation, said. The federal Department of Transportation would be asked to pay 90 percent and the State Highway Commission 10 percent.

LAVOIE said the work would include acquisition of 10 acres between North 106th and North 110th Streets and Meridian and Corliss Avenues North for a parking lot, the development of new bus ramps lining the lot to the

Freeway's express lanes and some improvements to the Freeway interchange at Northeast Northgate Way.

Transit officials believe the Blue Streak program has not fully tested the potential for luring motorists aboard buses because the Northgate parking lot now is filled early every morning. That five-acre lot, on Fifth Avenue Northeast north of Northeast Northgate Way, has space for about 500 cars.

SURVEYS have shown that most of the persons using the Northgate lot once drove their own cars downtown.

Lavoie said the federal Department of Transportation, which gave the city \$1.3 million to fund Blue Streak through September, will be asked to extend the demon-

stration project through the end of 1972.

The 10-acre site selected for the second Blue Streak park - and - ride lot includes 26 homes. About half the land is under a single ownership.

Lavoie stressed that "this is only a proposal" and will require approval of the City Council, the Highway Commission and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, a branch of the federal Department of Transportation.

Acquisition and development of the parking lot would cost about \$2.1 million. Construction of freeway ramps serving the lot would cost about \$912,000 and improvements to the interchange to improve traffic flow would be about \$341,000.