

# Hoffa, Bobby Kennedy in Top Physical Condition for Combat

Editor's note: This is the second of five dispatches on the life and times of Jimmy Hoffa.

By HARRY FERGUSON  
Washington—(AP)—About the only thing Bobby Kennedy and Jimmy Hoffa have in common is physical culture.

Hoffa is five feet, five and a half inches tall and 180 pounds of solid muscle. He doesn't smoke or drink, does push-ups and exercises with bar bells. He has been known to sit alertly at the table for 24 hours in a contract negotiation. Kennedy is a push-up man, too, and rides horseback, hikes, swims and plays touch football.

So both were in the pink for the historic struggle that started on Aug. 20, 1957, when Chairman John L. McClellan of the Senate rackets committee said: "Mr. Hoffa, will you be sworn in, please?" Kennedy, as committee counsel, was going to do the prosecuting. One member of the committee was Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

At the time Hoffa was ninth vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America. The president was Dave Beck of Seattle, now serving a prison term for income tax evasion, and already on the skids as head of the big union. The one thing that probably wrecked Beck's career as a labor leader was that he took the Fifth Amendment 140 times in one session, when he appeared before the McClellan committee.

### Faces Decision

Hoffa was faced with a tough decision as he got ready to testify. If you are going to take the Fifth Amendment, you had better take it all the way rather than answer some questions and refusing to answer others. If you answer a question as to whether you are a member of the Teamsters Union, then the next one is likely to be whether you ever stole any money from the union, and if you decline to answer you are in contempt of Congress. Dave Beck Jr. took the Fifth when asked whether he knew his father.

Hoffa, with a lawyer on either side, rejected the protection of the Fifth Amendment. He was deferential toward the senators on the committee and addressed them as "Sir," but he treated Bobby Kennedy as

though he were patting a shaggy dog on the head. Kennedy bared in immediately:

"You have been arrested a number of times, Mr. Hoffa. How many, approximately?"  
"Well, I don't know, Bob." Hoffa replied. "I haven't counted them up."

### Lists Arrests

Kennedy counted them up for him. They skimmed over the arrests for illegal picketing (Hoffa claims he once was arrested 18 times in 24 hours but always returned to the picket line). Two things were left. Hoffa was accused of violating the federal antitrust law in Detroit in connection with the collection and shipment of waste paper. He pleaded nolo contendere (no contest) and was fined \$1,000. He also was convicted of a misdemeanor in connection with collecting \$5 in "initiation fees" from Detroit grocers and was ordered to return \$7,500 to them.

Hoffa was calm and cool and almost every time he answered a question he took out insurance against a perjury charge by saying "to the best of my recollection." That meant he could change his testimony later if somebody refreshed his recollection.

Gradually a pattern developed in Kennedy's questions and Hoffa's answers. When they got on the subject of his finances, Hoffa testified that he made the acquaintance of Owen Bert Brennan, president of a Teamsters local in Detroit. Brennan had achieved something that millions of persons have sought without success—an infallible system for beating the horses.

### Explains Funds

Hoffa testified that each year he gave Brennan some cash to put on the horses and at the end of the year he got back winnings that ranged between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Hoffa's income tax returns over a few years listed a total of \$80,000 income in "wagering and miscellaneous."

The committee and everybody in the crowded room was eager to have the Brennan system of picking horses explained. Kennedy poured questions at Hoffa, but Jimmy professed to know nothing.

"Ask Brennan," he suggested. That's what the committee did and Brennan was brought to the stand. His lawyer explained that Brennan was in-



**BOTH IN CONDITION**—About the only thing Bobby Kennedy and Jimmy Hoffa have in common is physical culture. Both believe in exercise, so both were in the pink when their historic struggle began on Aug. 20, 1957, with Hoffa's appearance before the Senate Rackets committee in Washington. UPI

involved in some litigation in New York state, and then Kennedy started the questions.

"On the advice of counsel," Brennan replied, "I respectfully decline at this time to answer, and under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution I assert my privilege not to be a witness against myself."

He started saying that around 2 p.m., and said it steadily until 6:20 p.m. It soon became evident to everybody that the secret of picking horses was going to remain locked in Brennan's brain with the Fifth Amendment standing sentinel.

### Becomes Pattern

This was to become a familiar pattern in the hearings. Hoffa would suggest that somebody else knew the answer to the question and then that person would take the Fifth Amendment. Sen. Karl Mundt, of South Dakota, a member of the committee, finally leaned toward Brennan and said: "I think Mr. Hoffa is taking the Fifth Amendment through your lips."

There wasn't any doubt that Hoffa had won the first round.

Next: Cloak and dagger stuff in a federal court.

### Cottage Grove Boy Dies in Rope of Swing

Cottage Grove—(AP)—Clarence R. Beers, 12, died at his home near here Sunday night when his neck became tangled in the rope of a swing. Police said he may have fallen. The death was termed an accident.

## Medford Youth Hurt In Auto Accident

Stanley Keith Scheel, 19, of route 3, box 169C, Medford, was injured Sunday when his car failed to negotiate a curve at the west end of the Bear creek bridge on Kirtland rd., state police said.

He was reported in fair condition at Rogue Valley hospital. He is being treated for cuts on his face and arms.

The Scheel car left the roadway and rolled over several times, police said. The driver was taken to the hospital by the Central Point Ambulance service.

## American History Awards Presented

Portland—Two national awards in American history were awarded in Oregon by the American Association for State and Local History meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., last week, according to Tom Vaughan, member of the council and director of the Oregon Historical Society.

The "Award of Distinction," a unique and occasional award, went to Dr. Bart

Brown Barker, Portland, for his distinguished community and regional service in scholarly fields and many important contributions of historical materials to institutions all over the country.

Barker, former vice president of the University of Oregon, is the author of many historical publications including "McLoughlin Empire and its Rulers" and "The Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin."

The "Award of Merit" was presented to the Oregon Historical Society, publisher, and Dr. Arthur L. Throckmorton, author, for publication of "Oregon Argonauts: Merch-

ant Adventurers on the Western Frontier" released by the Society last November. Receiving wide acclaim and many national reviews, it is a long awaited synthesis of settlement and development of the Pacific Northwest (1839-1869) and specifically a study of Hudson's Bay Company and the rise of pioneer merchant capitalists in opposition to the fur company.

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H. W. McCauley  
Regional Manager

## Regional Office of SIAC Established Here, Open Sept. 1

H. W. McCauley, classification and survey supervisor for the employer coverage division of the State Industrial Accident Commission, has been named regional manager effective Sept. 1, with headquarters at Sixth and Grape sts., Medford.

Completing a major phase of the commission's reorganization plan designed to speed up service by coordinating and maintaining employer coverage, accident prevention and claims service at an area level, five other regional offices have been located throughout the state. Effective relations will also be established with doctors and hospitals in each region.

McCauley is a native Oregonian from Salem and during the last war was a member of the U. S. Air Corps specializing in communications.

Educated in Salem He received his education in Salem schools and the Oregon College of Education. He became affiliated with the commission in 1951 as a clerk working up to the position of classification and survey supervisor for the employer coverage division before his selection to be a regional manager.

SIAC's regional program grew out of an administrative study begun in January last year with a commission task force and directed by Woodward and Fondiller, New York management analysts. The plan will facilitate handling matters at the area level through closer contact with those under the Workmen's Compensation Law needing service.

Principal cities and communities to be served are Cave Junction, Gold Beach, Grants Pass, Medford, Myrtle Creek, Port Orford, Rogue River, Sutherlin, Ashland, Brookings and Roseburg.

### Oswald West's Widow Dies in Portland

Portland—(AP)—Mrs. Oswald West, widow of the former Oregon governor, died Monday at the age of 88. Mrs. West had been in failing health since the death of her husband Aug. 23, 1960.

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