

The Hoffa Story—III

Hoffa Stumbles Into FBI Trap; Wins Case With Work of Clever Attorney

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

By HARRY FERGUSON
Washington — Jimmy Hoffa is 49 years old and the graph of his career for the last 30 of them looks like the rising and dipping of a roller coaster. It hit bottom on the night of March 13, 1957, when he walked into the lobby of the DuPont Plaza Hotel and found himself surrounded by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

charge of bribing a lawyer to spy on the Senate rackets committee and steal documents from its files. The cloak and dagger story that unfolded by the script writers for the Perry Mason show as being too implausible. At the time Hoffa was ninth vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, the world's biggest union. Dave Beck, the president, had been discredited by the Senate rackets committee, was

on the way out and eventually went to prison for income tax evasion. Hoffa was the crown prince, and the path of his future seemed a rosy one, strewn with the blossoms of prominence and power. **Change Is Sudden**
In the young Robert F. Kennedy, the sweep and eager counsel of the Senate rackets committee, changed all that. One day Kennedy received a caller who identified himself as John Cye Cheasty, a New York lawyer. His story was that Hoffa had offered him \$18,000 if he could get a job on the legal staff of the rackets committee and act as a spy for the Teamsters' Union. Kennedy consulted the FBI and it was suggested to Cheasty that he become a double agent. He accepted.

When the case came to trial in federal district court, Cheasty told this story: On the night of March 12 he took some documents prepared for him by the FBI and, in a taxicab driven by an FBI agent, picked Hoffa up at his hotel. He gave Hoffa the documents, but told him he would have to get them back later that night. Hoffa gave him some money, and a few hours later there was another meeting at which the documents were returned to Cheasty.

The next night Cheasty delivered another envelope of

documents to Hoffa outside the DuPont Plaza Hotel. Hoffa put them in his pocket and strolled into the lobby and into the arms of the FBI. Bobby Kennedy went to the federal courthouse where Hoffa was formally charged, and Jimmy had this to say to him: "Listen, Bobby, you run your business and I'll run mine. You go on home and go to bed. Let's not have no problems."

Appears Air-Tight
If ever there was an airtight legal case, this one appeared to be it. The prosecution had a photograph, taken by the FBI, of Cheasty handing an envelope to Hoffa. It also had about \$700 of marked money which Cheasty testified Hoffa had handed to him. Kennedy and the federal prosecutors were confident they had Hoffa on the ropes, and Bobby even said: "If Hoffa isn't convicted, I'll jump off the Capitol dome."

Hoffa frequently is at his best when the going is roughest and he knew he was on the spot. He doesn't have a high regard for lawyers, particularly the kind he calls "book lawyers," but he set out to get the best one available. He found his man in Edward Bennett Williams, a criminal attorney who has developed into an advocate who takes the improbable in his stride and the impossible. His defense of Hoffa was Williams' finest hour. At the end of it he had ceased to be a local lawyer and had become a national figure.

Eight of the 12 members of the jury were Negroes. Early in the trial Joe Louis, former heavyweight champion, strolled in and took a seat. When the court recessed, Louis was asked what he was doing here, and replied: "I just came to see how my friend Jimmy Hoffa is getting along." Williams denies that he planted Louis in the courtroom, but in any event the prosecution attempted to counter-attack by having a Negro lawyer sit at its table throughout the trial.

Williams centered his attack on Cheasty's credibility as a witness and gave him a rough cross-examination. When it came time to deliver his summation, he returned to the attack in the quiet but intense tone of voice that is his best weapon: "The Ninth Commandment in the Bible is that thou shalt not bear false witness. From this man's lips we learn that he deceives. From this man's lips we learn that he falsifies."

Two of the women jurors wept. A prominent attorney who heard Williams' summation predicted that law students some day would make special trips to Washington to see the man in action.

The jury stayed out for three hours and 45 minutes and came back with a verdict of not guilty. The jurors, who were interviewed later, said the presence of Joe Louis had not been a determining factor in the verdict. All of them agreed that the decisive thing was their doubt about the

credibility of Cheasty's testimony.

Hoffa made this brief statement: "Ed Williams is tops," and then threw all of his energy into the next project. The Teamsters were shortly to hold an election for president and Jimmy had some definite ideas about who the man should be.

As for Williams, he offered to stand the expense of a parachute for Bobby Kennedy's jump off the Capitol dome.

Next: Hoffa grabs the big prize.



BRIBE ATTEMPT CHARGED—Jimmy Hoffa, his career rising and dipping like a roller coaster, was arrested on March 13, 1957, on charges of trying to bribe a lawyer to spy on the Senate rackets committee. He was ably defended by attorney Edward Bennett Williams, shown at left with him, and acquitted. (UPI)

Jackie Receives Personal Tribute

Ravella, Italy — (UPI) — Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, fresh from a personal triumph in which Ravella made her an honorary citizen, left nearby Amalfi by boat today for a brief visit to the fabled Isle of Capri.

With her were her sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, French photographer Gilbert Graziani and his wife, and Italian fashion designer Princess Irene Galitzine. Caroline Kennedy, 4, stayed behind.

The group was expected to stay at Princess Galitzine's Capri villa and to return to Ravella by this evening. Tuesday night, firecrackers replaced a 21-gun salute and the village band played "The Marine Hymn" instead of "The Star Spangled Banner" as Ravella got its point across in a special fiesta that it thought Mrs. Kennedy was wonderful.

Rabid Bat Bites Three Children

Lawrenceburg, Tenn. — (UPI) — A rabid bat bit three children in the yard of the Ethridge Elementary school but anti-rabies serum was administered in time to counteract the disease, it was learned Tuesday.

Officials said the incident occurred last week after the children found the bat in a tree.

W. F. Drake, sanitarian at the Lawrence County Health department, sent the bat to Nashville, Tenn., where tests showed that it was rabid.

Washington — About one-third of all Americans over the age of 65 receive some form of social security payments.

Recordings of Ant Sounds Presented at Conference

Corvallis—Ants make sounds which are clearly audible to humans, and appear to use them for communication, a Rutgers university zoologist reported yesterday. He reported in a research report to the American Society of Zoologists meeting at Oregon State university, produced recordings of ant sounds, and displayed visual patterns taken from oscilloscope reproduction of the recorded sounds.

The report, believed to be one of the first scientific discussions of ant communication by sound, was given at a session devoted to animal behavior and sociobiology. Studies of animal behavior are basic to understanding of many human patterns of physical and mental activity.

Sounds Recorded
Miss Forrest said ant behavior indicating that some type of short-distance communication operated between ants prompted the study. Sounds made by 23 ant species and varieties have been recorded since the research began.

Miss Forrest said ant noises are made by snapping leg joints, scraping feet, rapping with mandibles, and by stridulatory organs.

Morse, Neuberger Support Tax Bill

Washington — Oregon Democratic Sen. Wayne Morse and Maurice Neuberger voted Tuesday in favor of striking a seven per cent investment tax credit for business and industry out of the Kennedy administration's tax reform bill.

The Senate handed the President a significant victory by voting 52-30 to retain the credit in the bill. The vote generally cut across party lines with 37 Democrats and 15 Republicans in favor of the tax credit and 17 Democrats and 15 Republicans against it.

Veteran Newsmen Dies in New York

New York — (UPI) — Burnett Elliott (Bo) McAnney, 70, vice president of the New York World-Telegram and Sun, died at Beth Israel hospital Tuesday night of a heart attack.

McAnney's newspaper career spanned nearly a half century. Born in North Tarrytown, N.Y., the son of a minister, he graduated from the Columbia School of Journalism in 1914 and went to work for the New York Tribune.

He served as a Marine sergeant in World War I, then returned to the Tribune to work as reporter, rewrite man and assistant city editor until 1925. After a year selling newspapers features, McAnney joined the New York Post, where he did feature editing and rewrite.

In 1927, he went to the New York Times as a copy reader and rewrite man. He joined the staff of the New York Telegram in 1928, three years before it became the World-Telegram. McAnney was named city editor in 1933, a job he held until 1948, when he was made managing editor. The board of directors elected him vice president in 1954.

FALL PAINT SALE!

PRICE SLASHED!

FOR THE FIRST TIME!

PG Highest Quality
WALLHIDE
RUBBERIZED

Wall Paint

Regular \$6.70 Gal.
\$4.98* GAL.

Now* Only **\$4.98*** GAL.

For a limited time

• YOU SAVE \$1.72 per gallon on all Ready Mixed Colors and White. Similar Reduction on more than 1,000 MAESTRO® Custom Colors.

SEE YOUR NEARBY PITTSBURGH PAINTS DEALER

Listed Under PITTSBURGH PAINTS in the Yellow Pages or Call 773-8295

PITTSBURGH PAINTS
PITTSBURGH PLAYS GLASS COMPANY
where leadership in research leads to a better life for you

OPEN TONIGHT 'Til 9

AND EVERY NITE MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
SPECIAL 6 'TIL 9 ONLY



200 GIRLS BLOUSES

Regular 1.99 and 2.99

Special 6 'til 9 P.M. Only **1.66**



Just Say "Charge It" on Sears Revolving Charge Account

Short Sleeves, Roll Sleeves, Sleeveless, Peter Pan Collars, Tailored Collars, Novelty Collars with trim and lace. Pick from many styles and fall shades and send her back-to-school in smart blouses styles. Sizes 7-14.

BILTWELL SHOES Fit as well as they look... and wear...and wear...and wear Saucy Styling for the Junior Miss



Black Slipon Seafoam Sole Sizes 10-4 **4.99**



Nylon Velvet Seafoam sole & heel Sizes 9 1/2 to 4 **5.99**



Black Swivel Strap Slipon Sizes 8 1/2 to 3 **5.99**

Shop at Sears and Save Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back



501 E. JACKSON ST. PHONE 773-6661 FREE PARKING

STORE HOURS: TUES., WED., THURS., SAT., 9:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M. MON. AND FRI., 9:30 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

OUR FUNERAL HOME

All facilities located in one beautiful yet unpretentious building. We are able to serve you better than ever before at no added cost to our patrons.

LITWILLER FUNERAL HOME

Highway 66 at Normal Ave. Ashland — Dial 482-2816



C. M. Litwiler



Mrs. Litwiler



Ashland's Leading Funeral Directors Since 1933