

RFK-Partin Fund Issue In BR Trial

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State Item

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(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Aubrey Young, a key state witness in the public bribery trial of Dalton Smith, today testified he twice heard references to a \$65,000 trust fund reportedly set up by the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for Baton Rouge Teamsters official Edward G. Partin.

The defense wound up cross-examination of Young, who allegedly was offered \$25,000 by Smith, a New Orleans contractor, to arrange a meeting between him and Partin.

PARTIN IS BOSS of Teamster Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge. It was his testimony that led to the imprisonment of International teamster president James Hoffa on federal jury-tampering charges.

Smith also is under a separate charge of attempting to get Partin, a witness in a federal court proceeding, to change his testimony in an effort to win a new trial for Hoffa.

Young, a former aide to Gov. John McKeithen, told a five-man jury that he first heard about the trust fund at a meeting between Partin and Smith at his residence. He said he heard of the trust fund another time when the three men made a trip to a country road near Gramercy where they met two unidentified men.

(Partin is scheduled to be

the next witness to be called by the state.

Partin was languishing in a Baton Rouge jail under both federal indictment and state charges until he became an informer for the United States at an earlier Hoffa trial.

THE SMITH trial, being conducted in East Baton Rouge's 19th Judicial District Court, recessed yesterday with Young still on the stand undergoing cross-examination. Young, who admitted under prosecution questioning he would like to see Smith freed, testified Smith offered him the money to arrange the meeting.

Under cross-examination, Young said the money was offered after he agreed to the arrangements.

Young also admitted under cross-examination the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney told him he had better get his story straight or else, because he had been kept out of the penitentiary.

"I DON'T WANT to get into any trouble," Young said. "It's pretty tough around here."

He said he agreed he had been warned but denied it was a threat.

"You got the message?" the defense asked.

Yes, sir," Young replied.

Young was the second witness of the day, following Mrs. Smith to the stand. Partin, another key state witness, is expected to take the stand today.

MRS. SMITH, who surprisingly was called a state witness, contradicted the dates of the alleged offense.

She placed the time of a meeting between Partin, Young and her husband, as in October of 1966, rather than in January of 1967. She also

insisted the conversation at the meeting at her home was confined to general topics.

Young also recounted two other meetings he arranged between Partin and Smith, both at his residence on the state police headquarters grounds in Baton Rouge. At the last meeting, Young said, an attorney from Chicago attended.

HE SAID BOTH Smith and Partin told him the purpose of the meeting. He testified Partin said Smith wanted to know if there had been any illegal wiretapping at the Hoffa trial and added he knew of none.

Young said Smith asked him how he was financially and he answered he was \$27,000 in debt. He said Smith asked if \$25,000 would help and he said it would help anyone. He said he wanted Smith, if he had the money, to pay off a \$10,000 note Young had signed for Smith.

HE SAID AFTER the meetings he was later told by Smith he didn't have any money and if there were any it was being held by Jefferson Parish rackets figure Carlos Marcello. However, Young said, he contacted Marcello and was advised Marcello didn't have any money for him.

In an effort to attack his grand jury testimony that led to Smith's indictment, the defense brought out Young's confinement to the Southeast Louisiana Hospital at Mandeville in September, 1967. Young testified he supposedly was committed there as an alcoholic but was held a virtual prisoner in a small room in the locked mental section for most of the time. He said he was told he was confined there on "orders from Baton Rouge" and was guarded by state police.

He said he was refused the right to make phone calls or see an attorney.