

LAWYER BLASTS RETURN EFFORT

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Says La. Wants Smith for
Political Reasons

By JACK KEEVER

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — A Texas lawyer asserted Tuesday that Louisiana "unquestionably" has "purely political" reasons for wanting to get D'Alton Carl Smith back to Louisiana, where he was indicted for allegedly trying to bribe a former aide to Gov. John McKeithen.

Jack Gray said there "was no basis, no foundation whatsoever" to extradite Smith for "what they say" he was charged with in the indictment, returned by a grand jury in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Gray, of Denton, Tex., represented Smith, a New Orleans contractor, at an extradition hearing before Texas Secretary of State John Hill. Smith was not present, and when Hill asked why not, Gray replied: "I told him it was not necessary to be here."

He said Smith was in Denton on Monday.

Smith turned himself in Oct. 3 in Denton and was released on \$1,500 bond, and later was arrested in Los Angeles and re-

leased on \$27,500 bond on warrants that charged that Smith offered a \$25,000 bribe to Aubrey Young, an aide to McKeithen.

The bribe, it was charged, was for Young to act as a middleman in an effort to get Edward Grady Partin, a Baton Rouge Teamster leader, to change his testimony in the 1962 trial that resulted in conviction of Teamsters Union president James Hoffa on a jury tampering charge.

"In no wise is the charge of public bribery valid," said Gray, who argued whether Young's official capacity as a governor's aide was affected by the offer of money.

"You can split hairs all day about whether he (Young) was acting in a public or private capacity," said Hill, "but they are pretty hard to separate. Of all the extradition hearings I've been exposed to, and there must have been 100, this one is the most serious."

Hill gave Gray three weeks to prepare a brief on the extradition request, so it could be a month or so before Hill recommends a course of action for Texas Gov. John Connally on Louisiana's attempt to extradite Smith.