

11-17-61  
**PARTIN APPEARS  
 BEFORE AGENCY**

**'In Wrong Room,' He  
 Says After Questioning**

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — "I believe we got in the wrong room. The labor hearing must be somewhere else," local Teamster official Edward Grady Partin said Thursday about his testimony before a state anti-racketeering agency.

The business agent for Teamsters Local No. 5 said he was questioned about anything but the labor-management area over which the agency has jurisdiction.

Partin spent about three hours with the state labor-management commission of inquiry, created by Gov. John McKeithen after last summer's tieup of industrial construction.

Another evening hearing was slated by the commission to hear again from Partin, and from James H. "Buddy" Gill, official of an industrial contractors' association here.

**CLASHES TOLD**

Partin told of having verbal clashes in the secret session with chief counsel Camille Gravel of the commission, who reportedly plans to resign his post.

"I don't think he's going to resign," Partin said. "I think they're going to kick him off. He talks like a man that's leaving."

He said chairman Cecil Morgan twice demanded that Gravel show the commission what his questions had to do with the rackets probe.

Partin said he was questioned about an alleged attempt to bribe him, a claim that he was the subject of two assassination plots, pending lawsuits against him, and Teamster connections with a vending machine firm.

"It was more or less on the criminal aspects — the things that are before the grand jury," Partin said. "It was not on the subject of labor and management."

**PROBE NOTED**

He said he answered questions to the best of his ability. His attorneys claimed the com-

mission was probing some areas that were specifically forbidden under the law creating it.

Partin followed Life Magazine newsman Dave Chandler into the closed-door meeting in the Senate chamber.

The labor leader, often seen clad in a sports shirt, wore a tailored business suit for his appearance before the commission.

"If they are going to bury you," Partin commented concerning his change of attire, "you might as well dress right."

Earlier, Partin called the probe a whitewash and protested he was "the lamb being led to the cross."

When Chandler emerged from  
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**PARTIN IN SUIT FOR SESSION**

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the hearing room, his attorney, Cicero Sessions of New Orleans, said that "his own knowledge was very limited in the area in which he was interrogated."

The attorney said names and substance could not be discussed because they would get into areas being probed by grand juries in the state.

Sessions said the commission asked Chandler about labor and management matters only, and nothing concerning crime in general.

Chandler referred all questions from newsmen to his attorney.

In a series of articles on organized crime in Louisiana, Life Magazine said a \$1 million bribe was offered to Partin in an alleged attempt to buy freedom from prison for James Hoffa, former Teamsters president convicted of a federal jury tampering charge. Partin was star wit-

ness for the prosecution.

The commission, organized after industrial construction stoppages idled 15,000 men in this area last summer, was ordered to probe whether any violations of state or federal law took place in labor and management relations.