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**FOUR QUERIED  
IN HOFFA CASE**

TP 9/27/67  
Strate, Gervais, Baldwin,  
Sheridan Appear

Four persons appeared before the federal grand jury Tuesday in its investigation into an alleged conspiracy aimed at freeing Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa who is serving an eight-year term for jury tampering.

Those who appeared before the jury included Zachary A. "Red" Strate, New Orleans contractor; Walter Sheridan, newsman for the National Broadcasting Company; Edward M. Baldwin, a New Orleans attorney; and Pershing Gervais, former chief investigator for District Attorney Jim Garrison.

The grand jury recessed shortly after noon and is scheduled to go back into the probe at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday.

United States Attorney Louis C. LaCour, who is conducting the probe along with his first assistant, Gene S. Palmisano and Michael Epstein, a special attorney for the Department of Justice from Washington, would not say who will appear at Wednesday's session.

#### CHICAGO TESTIMONY

The jury is investigating allegations that Edward G. Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster Union officer, had been approached by certain persons in an effort to have him change his testimony which was instrumental in sending Hoffa to the federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pa.

Strate was convicted along with Hoffa of conspiracy and fraud in another case in 1964 in Chicago.

During a federal court hear-

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 2, Col. 1

SECTION ONE—PAGE TWO

## U.S. GRAND JURY

Continued from Page 1

ing last month in Chicago in connection with that case Strate testified that Sheridan offered to help him if Strate would help him discredit Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Sheridan was an investigator for the Department of Justice during the probe which led to Hoffa's conviction.

At the recent Chicago federal court hearing Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara testified that he had been a messenger in an attempt to get Partin to sign an affidavit that illegal wiretap evidence had been used in the trial of Hoffa.

In the Chicago hearing Judge O'Hara told the court that Baldwin, who was his campaign manager in his unsuccessful campaign to defeat Garrison in 1965, contacted him concerning Sheridan and that Sheridan was preparing a "White Paper" for NBC on Garrison's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

The judge testified that Baldwin arranged a meeting between Strate and Sheridan.

After his appearance before the grand jury Tuesday, Sheridan said that his meeting with Strate came after Judge O'Hara told him that he had information that would be "very help-

ful" concerning the Garrison investigation.

"I did not know that Strate would be at the meeting. Strate offered me Pershing Gervais. I told him before we went any farther I wanted to know what he wanted from me.

"He told me he wanted Hoffa out of jail. He wanted me to give him information about bugging and wire tapping and Chattanooga (where Hoffa was tried for jury tampering)," Sheridan asserted.

He added, "I told him there was no bugging or wiretapping in Chattanooga and that was the end of it."

Neither Baldwin nor Gervais would comment on their appearance before the jury.