

JURY RECESSES BRIBERY PROBE

TP 9/28/67
O'Hara Is One of Three
Witnesses Heard

The federal grand jury probing charges that bribes have been offered in an attempt to free Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa from prison was recessed Wednesday after hearing three witnesses, including Criminal District Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

Judge O'Hara was in the jury room less than five minutes and would not comment on his appearance.

Others called by the jury included Julian Levy, the judge's official court reporter, and Municipal Judge William Hark Daniels of Baton Rouge.

After the session United States Attorney Louis C. LaCour said that it would be another week or more before the jury resumes the investigation that certain persons have attempted to bribe Edward G. Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster Union officer, to change his testimony which was instrumental in convicting Hoffa.

Judge O'Hara testified at a recent federal court hearing in Chicago that he had been a "messenger" in an attempt to get Partin to sign an affidavit that illegal wiretap evidence had been used to convict Hoffa of fraud and conspiracy in Chattanooga in 1964.

Hoffa is serving an eight-year term on a jury tampering charge which grew out of that trial. The fraud and conspiracy conviction is now on appeal.

When Levy left the grand jury room he said that he had prepared the affidavit.

Judge Daniels said that he was a witness in the jury tampering trial and when he was asked if he was going to cooperate with the jury, Judge Daniels said, "I regard the grand jury as an important adjunct to law and order. A person shouldn't go before the grand jury if he is not going to cooperate."

Judge O'Hara was accompanied to the grand jury room by attorney Robert J. Zibilich.