

Partin Claim Of Bribe Said 'Utterly False'

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BATON ROUGE (AP) — A Baton Rouge contractors association official said today a charge that he carried a \$1 million bribe to a Teamsters official is "completely and utterly false."

James H. (Buddy) Gill, manager of the Baton Rouge Industrial Contractors Association, said in a statement that the charge by Baton Rouge Teamsters boss Edward Grady Partin was designed "to mislead and misinform the public."

Partin charged in a federal court motion yesterday that Gill offered him the money in an effort to win a new trial for James Hoffa.

"As usual, Partin's most recent charges are designed to take the spotlight off of Partin's own activities and to place it somewhere, anywhere else," Gill said.

GILL BLAMED Partin for the labor crisis that wracked Baton Rouge last summer.

"Partin is now grasping at straws and lashing out in all directions," Gill said. "He is a man of desperation."

"I am the most recent in a series of persons who supposedly has offered Partin \$1 million or some other amounts of money.

"Only heaven knows who Partin will accuse next. Needless to say, his statement that I offered him anything to do anything is completely and utterly false," Gill's statement went on.

"And every possible legal step will be taken to see that Partin is called to account for his irresponsible statements."

Hoffa, president of the Teamsters Union, was convicted in 1964 of tampering with a jury. Partin, business agent for a Teamsters local here, was the government's principal witness.

THE ALLEGED BRIBE is under investigation by a federal grand jury in New Orleans.

Partin's new motion asked for the recall or modification of U.S. Dist. Judge E. Gordon

West's command that he answer questions at a deposition session in a multi-million dollar anti-trust suit.

The motion said much of last summer's Baton Rouge area labor troubles, which shut down over \$250 million in construction for weeks, were fomented in an effort to discredit him and pressure him into agreeing to change his testimony in the Hoffa case.

ALTEX CONCRETE CO. filed the anti-trust suit against Partin and a number of others, claiming they conspired to put Altex out of business.

Partin claims that Roland Stevens Sr., an Altex executive, and Wallace Heck, a former Altex executive, were in collusion against him and trying to use the newly appointed Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry for their own means.

The commission was set up by a special session of the Legislature, called during a state administration crackdown which succeeded in ending the Baton Rouge strikes and lockouts.

IN HIS COURT motion, Partin also said he has information of a meeting early this year at International Teamsters headquarters in Washington involving five men.

Partin named Frank Fitzsimmons, then acting Teamster president; Criminal Dist. Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara of New Orleans; Allan Dorfman of Chicago; contractor Zachary A. Strate Jr. of New Orleans; and Gill.

Impeachment proceedings

against Judge O'Hara have been filed in the Louisiana Supreme Court, accusing him of helping Strate in an effort to buy Hoffa a new trial. The judge is on a temporary leave of absence from the bench, pending a decision by the court.