

# JUSTICE UNIT SAID GUILTY OF 'PAYOFF'

AP 5-4-64  
Accusation Is Made by  
Judge at Hearing

By BILL NEIKIRK

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—  
A federal district judge Friday  
accused the U.S. Justice De-  
partment of a "payoff" because  
of its refusal to prosecute crim-  
inal charges against a local  
union leader who gave key tes-  
timony at the trial of Team-  
sters Union President James R.  
Hoffa.

U.S. Dist. Judge E. Gordon  
West rejected a Justice De-  
partment motion to dismiss  
an embezzlement indictment  
against Edward Grady Partin,  
business agent for Team-  
sters Local No. 5 of Baton  
Rouge.

Michael Epstein, an attorney  
for the Justice Department, de-  
nied the judge's accusation that  
a "deal" had been made with  
Partin to dismiss charges  
against him if he turned state's  
evidence against Hoffa.

He said only that the "inter-  
ests of justice would best be  
served" if the indictment were  
not pressed.

### INTERESTS OF JUSTICE

"Are the interests of justice  
to be served by the granting of  
lifetime immunity to this de-  
fendant because of the wishes  
of some previous attorney gen-  
eral?" West asked.

"No, sir," Epstein replied.  
"No such immunity is in exist-  
ence today."

The reference was to former  
Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy,  
now a U.S. senator and a candi-  
date for president.

Epstein declined to go into  
detail on the Justice Depart-  
ment's reasons for asking for  
a dismissal of the indictment.  
The motion did say that cer-  
tain key records were miss-  
ing, one government witness  
had died, and a number of  
government witnesses were  
biased against Partin.

West said he was not con-  
vinced the reasons were true.

Epstein noted that Partin was  
"one of the principal witnesses  
in an important federal case."

He acknowledged when ques-  
tioned by West that it was the  
jury tampering trial of Hoffa  
in Tennessee in 1964. Hoffa was

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ICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., SATURDAY MORNING.

## JUDGE CHARGES 'PAYOFF'

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convicted and is now in federal  
prison.

### 'NO BARGAIN'

Epstein said that "no bar-  
gain" was made with Partin  
that if he testified against  
Hoffa, the Justice Department  
would not press the embezzle-  
ment charges against the local  
union leader. The charges in-  
volve embezzlement of union  
funds.

But West noted that the em-  
bezzlement case had been sit-  
ting for several years with-  
out a Justice Department  
move. He asked Epstein if  
he were aware or suspected  
that a deal had been made  
to drop the charges if Partin  
testified against Hoffa.

Epstein replied that he wasn't  
familiar with the case and had  
no reason to suspect it.

The judge had ordered the  
Justice Department into court  
to show cause why it wanted  
to dismiss the motion.

West noted Epstein's state-  
ment that Partin was an im-  
portant government witness  
and had assisted the Justice  
Department. The judge de-  
clared:

"If that isn't a payoff, I don't  
know what it is."

After the motion was denied,  
West said he believed it was

a "mockery of justice" that the  
indictment had not been pressed.

"There are questions in this  
case this court and the public  
have a right to know," the  
judge said.

### TARGET OF DRIVE

Partin is a key figure in the  
Baton Rouge labor-management  
field and his union has been  
the target of a drive by a state  
anti-rackets commission.

The Labor-Management Com-  
mission of Inquiry was estab-  
lished amid a massive indus-  
trial construction shutdown last  
summer to ferret out criminal  
violations in the labor-manage-  
ment field.

Only a day before, the Jus-  
tice Department confirmed it  
was investigating the Labor-  
Management Commisison to  
determine if it is playing any  
role in an effort to free Hoffa.

In a related development, a  
petition filed in federal court  
by a Teamsters Union member  
charged that officials of the  
commission have "singled out  
for murder" six union members.

The petition alleged that the  
Teamsters "could be shot and  
killed on sight at the slightest  
provocation and any employe  
killing any one of these union  
members would be granted com-  
plete immunity by the governor  
of the State of Louisiana."

The suit identified the Team-  
sters union members allegedly  
"singled out for murder" as J.  
D. Arnold, Wade McClanahan,  
Terry George, Jerry Sylvester,  
Hugh Marionneaux and Lloyd  
Kitcher.