

Partin Appears Before Hoffa Grand Jury

NASHVILLE (AP) — A Louisiana Teamsters Union official who once said he was offered \$1 million to change his testimony against James R. Hoffa appeared today before the latest federal grand jury called in the Hoffa case.

Edward Grady Partin, a Baton Rouge, La., teamsters official, was the chief government witness against Hoffa when the Teamsters president was convicted of jury tampering in Chattanooga in 1964.

PARTIN, 43, was expected to be followed by Sargent Pitcher, district attorney at Baton Rouge; Don Vestal, president of Teamsters Local 327 in Nashville, and Robert Vick, former Nashville policeman and government informer.

Pitcher's assistant at the time Partin testified in Chattanooga was William Hawk Daniels, now Baton Rouge city judge, who appeared before the investigative body yesterday. He told a New Orleans television newsmen in September he had been offered \$250,000 to alter his own testimony in the Hoffa case.

VESTAL'S LOCAL is slated for a Teamsters hearing on placing it under trusteeship—in effect removing Vestal as president and having an international union, representative placed in charge. Vestal and Hoffa have been at odds for several years.

At a recent hearing related to the case in U.S. District Court here, Vick testified that "Vestal has been threatened with violence and with putting his local under trusteeship unless he got me to change my testimony."

The first witness before the body, which convened yester-

day was Walter Sheridan, former assistant to the late Robert F. Kennedy, U.S. attorney general when Hoffa was convicted in Chattanooga. Sheridan spearheaded the prosecution of Hoffa on the jury tampering charge.

Hoffa is serving an eight-year sentence at a federal prison in Lewisburg, Pa. The grand jury was called to look into reports that several witnesses against him have been pressured and offered bribes to change their testimony against him.

SHERIDAN testified in a hearing here recently that he was offered \$1 million to change his testimony in the Hoffa case.

Daniels was quoted recently as saying a Baton Rouge businessman had offered him \$250,000 to change his testimony in the Hoffa case.

Hoffa first came to trial here in 1962 in a conspiracy case, which ended in a mistrial when the jury reported itself deadlocked. But he was convicted in Chattanooga in 1964 of jury tampering charges growing out of the Nashville trial.