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Partin Witness in Hoffa Probe

Takes Stand in Bribery Investigation Effort

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

The man whose testimony was instrumental in sending Teamsters President James Hoffa to prison appeared Friday before a federal grand jury investigating possible attempts to buy Hoffa's freedom.

Edward Grady Partin, 43, a Teamsters Union official from Baton Rouge, La., and Don Vestal, president of Teamsters Union Local 327 in Nashville, both appeared before the body on its second day. Both men have been at odds with Hoffa for several years.

They were joined before the grand jury by Robert Vick, former Nashville policeman and government informer, and

Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher of Baton Rouge.

The grand jury was convened after testimony at a recent hearing, related to Hoffa's 1964 jury-tampering conviction, that efforts had been made to bribe witnesses to change their testimony against Hoffa.

The testimony came from Walter Sheridan, a top aide to Robert F. Kennedy when the late New York senator was U.S. attorney general. Sheridan, now with the National Broadcasting Co., testified at a hearing for a former Hoffa lawyer that he had

been offered \$1 million to change his own testimony.

Hoffa, convicted in Chattanooga in 1964 of trying to tamper with a jury which heard—and deadlocked in—his 1962 conspiracy trial in Nashville, now is serving an eight-year prison sentence at Lewisburg, Pa.

Partin, like Sheridan, has said he has been offered up to \$1 million to change his testimony against Hoffa—although he has never so testified in court. Sheridan had been the lead-off witness before the grand jury when it went into session Thursday.

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