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Indictment Taunt Hurled By Partin, Prober Says

By BILL LYNCH (States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE-An investigator for the state Labor-Management Commission claims a Teamster Union chief warned him he would be indicted by a federal grand jury "for obstructing justice," the States-Item learned today.

Joseph Oster, an investigator for the commission, said Edward G. Partin, boss of Teamster Local No. b, threatened him with federal action after he arrested the union man Tuesday.

A FEDERAL grand jury in New Orleans has been in- Tuesday, charging him with

bribery attempt to get Partin testimony taken from a New to change his testimony that helped send International Teamster President James Hoffa to prison.

The States-Item revealed yesterday that the U.S. Justice Department, which has cloaked Partin with immunity from pending federal charges, has been investigating the state commission.

The Justice Department confirmed the action in a statement issued in Washing-

OSTER ARRESTED Partin

vestigating allegations on a aggravated assault based on Orleans television cameraman, Erby Aucoin, during commission hearings in April.

> Oster said Partin told him. "You'll get yours. Next week you are going to be indicted by the federal grand jury in New Orleans for obstructing justice."

> Oster said he asked Partin if that was a threat "and he said, 'Yes, it's a threat.' !

OSTER SAID that a number of people, including several Ascension Parish deputy sheriffs who participated in the arrest, heard Partin make the declaration.

He said that Partin told him the same thing again while riding in a car to the sheriff's office.

"When we got to the jail and booked him, he said that Hoffa paid me \$50,000 and the federal government was going to indict me," Oster said. "I just laughed at him."

AN AGENT FOR the FBI called Oster yesterday and inquired into the circumstances of the arrest.

Partin has complained fre-Turn to Page 4, Column 5

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quently to the Justice Department that the Labor-Management Commission investigation is an effort to get him.

The labor leader said yesterday that he had tape recordings that would back up his story and would play them on the witness stand if given a chance. He is scheduled to testify Monday at another hearing of the commission.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT also is scheduled to appear in federal court tomorrow to explain why it wants to drop 26 charges of embezzlement and falsification of records against Partin. The government has not prosecuted the charges since Partin became an informant against Hoffa in 1962.

State officials consider the Justice Department action a

State officials consider the Justice Department action a further effort to harass the commission, which is investigating labor racketeering in the Baton Rouge industrial area.

Chief counsel Tom McFerrin declared that the Labor-Management Commission is not backing away from its probe because of the Justice Department.

OSTER SAID that Partin told him he had conferred with Justice Department attorneys in Washington "and they were waiting for me to arrest him."

He said that Partin also said he had conferred at length with Walter Sheridan, the former Justice Department agent who worked with him against Hoffa. Sheridan, who has not been officially connected with the Justice Department for some time, has attempted to influence Gov. John J. McKeithen and Teamster Local No. 5.

Meanwhile, a third Teamster union man was arrested yesterday. Jerry Sylvester was charged the same as Partin in the Aucoin incident, in which the photographer testified he was threatened and forced to give up film he had shot at a race track south of Baton Rouge.

RULING ENJOINS DA IN GREY CASE Garrison Questioning of

MCC Official Blocked

Federal District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry Thursday signed a temporary restraining order enjoining District Attorney Jim Garrison from enforcing a subpena calling for the appearance in his office Friday of Dr. J. D. Grey, president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

Garrison had subpensed Dr. Grey after claiming that the MCC official had met secretly with a justice of the Louisiana Supreme court to discuss a contempt case involving Aaron M. Kohn, the MCC's

managing director.

After issuance of the restraining order, Dr. Grey held a press conference at Interna-tional House to announce that he plans to press the matter further by seeking a permanent injunction and to prove in "open court" that he had no contact with the justices concerning the Kohn case,

TELLS OF MEETINGS

Dr. Grey, pastor of the First Baptist Church, said he had no intention of permitting Garrison "to further deceive and confuse public understanding by letting ourselves be used as a pawn in

his star chamber proceedings." Dr. Grey said he met with Justice Joe W. Sanders in connection with Gov. John J. Mc-Keithen's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice. Dr. Grey is a member, while Sanders is chairman of the commission.

The minister said he also met with Justice Joe B. Hamiter to discuss the procedures in taking the oath of office as a commission member and to discuss church matters. Hamiter is a member of Dr. Grey's church.

Denying that he ever discussed the Kohn case with any Supreme Court justice, Dr. Grey accused Garrison of distorting the facts. He said the district attorney's action "stems from Garrison's compulsive drive to discredit and destroy our citizens' crime organization."

ABUSES CHARGED

He said MCC representatives have responded to subpenas by 1 the district attorney and his s

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RULING ENJOINS DA IN GREY CASE

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staff on previous occasions. But order which temporarily reafter subsequent private testi-strains Garrison "and others mony, he added, the district at-acting in concert with him and torney and his first assistant, in his behalf" from "compelling Charles Ray Ward, have issued or seeking to compel the at-public statements which "un-tendance of the Rev. J. D. Grey believably distort what was said in the office of the district atand done."

Continuing, he said:

"Although we would prefer him . . ," to respond to Mr. Garrison's subpena in a routine manner, due process of law."

Dr. Grey said he would prove ant DA Numa V. Bertel. in court "that the secret pro- Dr. Grey's attorneys have

MEETING HELD

Judge Christenberry's action The high court had thrown came after a brief meeting out a contempt citation against attorney and later signed the organized crime.

torney as required by the motion and subpena served upon

Dr. Grey was represented at the judge's conference by attorour experience has proved neys Milton E. Brener and Herthat he viciously abuses the bert Garon. The District Attorney was represented by Assist-

ceedings conducted by Garrison also asked that the federal judge in his office or the grand jury issue a preliminary injunction room are used illegally to har- and later a permanent injuncass and entrap; that they are tion. Judge Christenberry has not efforts to acquire truth for not set a date for a hearing on the request for the preliminary the request for the preliminary injunction.

Thursday morning in his cham-Kohn for refusing to answer bers with attorneys for Dr. questions before the Orleans Grey and an assistant district Parish Grand Jury concerning