

5-2-64

Indictment Taunt Hurlled 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. 6, threatened him with federal action after he arrested the union man Tuesday.

A FEDERAL grand jury in New Orleans has been in-

vestigating allegations on a bribery attempt to get Partin 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 Washington.

OSTER ARRESTED Partin Tuesday, charging him with

aggravated assault based on testimony taken from a New 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-

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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 subpoena calling for the appearance in his office Friday of Dr. J. D. Grey, president of the Metropolitan Crime Commission.

Garrison had subpoenaed 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 International 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. McKeithen'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 subpoenas by the district attorney and his

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staff on previous occasions. But after subsequent private testimony, he added, the district attorney and his first assistant, Charles Ray Ward, have issued public statements which "unbelievably distort what was said and done."

Continuing, he said:

"Although we would prefer to respond to Mr. Garrison's subpoena in a routine manner, our experience has proved that he viciously abuses the due process of law."

Dr. Grey said he would prove in court "that the secret proceedings conducted by Garrison in his office or the grand jury room are used illegally to harass and entrap; that they are not efforts to acquire truth for legal ends."

MEETING HELD

Judge Christenberry's action came after a brief meeting Thursday morning in his chambers with attorneys for Dr. Grey and an assistant district attorney and later signed the

order which temporarily restrains Garrison "and others acting in concert with him and in his behalf" from "compelling or seeking to compel the attendance of the Rev. J. D. Grey in the office of the district attorney as required by the motion and subpoena served upon him . . ."

Dr. Grey was represented at the judge's conference by attorneys Milton E. Brener and Herbert Garon. The District Attorney was represented by Assistant DA Numa V. Bertel.

Dr. Grey's attorneys have also asked that the federal judge issue a preliminary injunction and later a permanent injunction. Judge Christenberry has not set a date for a hearing on the request for the preliminary injunction.

The high court had thrown out a contempt citation against Kohn for refusing to answer questions before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury concerning organized crime.