

NBC NEWSMAN CALLED BY JURY

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Said Offered 'Deal' in
Hoffa Case

National Broadcasting Co. newsman Walter Sheridan was subpoenaed Friday in New Orleans by the federal grand jury which is investigating an alleged conspiracy to buy a new trial for former Teamster President James R. Hoffa.

He was asked to appear Tuesday.

There have been reports that Baton Rouge Teamster official Edward G. Partin has been offered a \$1 million bribe to change his testimony in the Hoffa case. The grand jury has launched a probe into these reports.

Partin was a key witness in the government case in which Hoffa was convicted of jury tampering. The effort for a new trial contended illegal wiretap material was used in the case.

Testimony at a recent Chicago court hearing on Hoffa's new trial motion revealed that Sheridan, an investigative reporter for NBC, was approached last summer with a deal.

Sheridan was offered information allegedly damaging to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison if he would assist in the effort to show wiretapping material was used against Hoffa.

At the time, Sheridan was gathering material for the NBC "White Paper" which criticized Garrison's methods and procedures in his controversial Kennedy assassination probe.

Subpenaed Thursday to appear at the Tuesday grand jury session were Zachary "Red" Strate, a New Orleans builder presently serving a federal prison term on a conviction of fraud and conspiracy in connection with the Teamsters Union pension fund; Julian M. Levy, court reporter for Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara; Edward M. Baldwin, a New Orleans attorney who was campaign manager for Judge O'Hara in his unsuccessful 1965 bid for the district attorney's office, and Pershing Gervais, formerly Garrison's chief investigator and more recently associated with Strate.