

\$65,000 OFFERED, PARTIN TESTIFIES

Asked to Say Wires Tapped—Claim

By BILL NEIKIRK

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A Baton Rouge Teamsters official testified Tuesday he was asked by representatives of James R. Hoffa to say there was illegal wiretapping by the government during the jury tampering trial of the Teamsters union president.

Edward Grady Partin, head of Teamsters Local No. 5, took the stand in the public bribery trial of New Orleans contractor Dalton Smith and said he was told by Hoffa interests that a \$65,000 trust fund could be set up for him.

But Partin, a key government witness in the Hoffa trial, said Smith told him that "they" could get the money for him and did not offer it to him directly.

MEETINGS HELD

The local Teamsters leader said in early 1967 he held meetings with Smith and other Hoffa interests.

"They told me they wanted to know about wiretapping (at the Hoffa trial) and I told them I knew of none," he said.

Partin testified Smith and others who met with him wanted him to say there was wiretapping by the government. He said a man he identified as Morris Schiffler, a Hoffa attorney, wanted him to sign an affidavit on the wiretapping.

He said the first meeting with Smith was arranged by Aubrey Young, former aid to Gov. John J. McKeithen, and took place at Smith's home. There was no discussion of money at this session, he said.

Another discussion took place on the side of the road near Gramercy, Partin said. He said Smith and Young took him there. They met Schiffler and a Hoffa aid he identified as John Hardin.

FUND MENTIONED

It was here, Partin said, that the possibility of a \$65,000 trust fund was mentioned to supplant a \$17,000 trust fund that the

PARTIN TELLS

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Hoffa representatives said was set up for Partin by the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Partin said he knew of no trust fund set up for him by Kennedy, who was attorney general during the Hoffa trial.

Partin said he contacted Walter Sheridan, then an assistant to Kennedy, about the meeting.

He described another meeting in Young's home in which he said Schiffler wanted him to sign an affidavit on wiretapping. He said Smith and Young were there, but were out of the room part of the time.

Schiffler made a telephone call to Florida to a person who identified himself as Hoffa, Partin said. The purpose was to get Hoffa to tell Partin that "he knew of wiretapping."

"It did not sound like his voice," Partin said.

On cross-examination, Partin was asked directly if Smith asked him whether he had any knowledge of wiretapping or whether he asked him to change his testimony at the Hoffa trial.

Partin said Smith asked him about wiretapping.

Smith is accused of public bribery of Partin and Young.

'DROVE TO SPOT'

Earlier, Young testified that he drove with Smith and Partin to a roadside spot near Gramercy and heard a "Bobby Kennedy trust fund" discussed between Partin, Smith and two men he didn't know. Young testified he took no part in the conversation.

Partin said, however, that Young said during that meeting that he wanted to know if he was going to get his money.

Smith is accused of offering \$25,000 to Young to introduce Smith and Partin.

The trial was recessed until Wednesday morning.