

# PARTIN IS INDICTED BY FEDERAL JURY

## Baton Rouge Labor Union Leader Is Charged on Five Counts

Baton Rouge union boss Edward Grady Partin was indicted Friday by the federal grand jury on five counts charging violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Hobbs Act, the federal anti-labor racketeering statute.

Indicted with Partin on the same charges were Ted F. Dunham Jr. and three Baton Rouge concrete products firms which he manages or controls.



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
EDWARD GRADY PARTIN



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
TED F. DUNHAM

The corporate defendants include Dunham Concrete Products, Inc., Louisiana Ready-Mix Company, Inc., and Anderson-Dunham, Inc.

Partin is business manager, secretary and treasurer of General Truckdrivers, Warehousemen and Helpers Local Union No. 5 in Baton Rouge. He has been the target of state and federal anti-racketeering probes and was a key government witness in the trial which resulted in the conviction of Teamsters International President James R. Hoffa for jury tampering at Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1964.

### CHARGES DENIED

"The charges against me and my company are totally incorrect," Dunham said. "I have known for some time that such complaints have been made and I think they are the outgrowth of a civil suit against me and others filed in March of 1967 and not yet brought to trial."

The civil action Dunham referred to is a \$3.15 million anti-trust suit filed by William Heck, official of the competing Altex Ready Mixed Concrete Co. Heck alleged that a conspiracy existed to put him out of business.

Partin was not available for comment.

The indictment said that various firms, corporations, unin-

### GOVERNOR BLAMED BY GREMILLION

Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion contended Friday that Edward Grady Partin wasn't being prosecuted on

the state level because Gov. John J. McKeithen "pulled the rug" from under him.

In Baton Rouge, Gremillion said, "We did our best until we got the rug pulled out from us. The governor is responsible. He took my money away."

corporated associations and individuals, not named as defendants, participated as coconspirators in the offenses charged.

### VIOLATIONS CHARGED

Since early in 1966, the true bill charges, the defendants and the unnamed coconspirators violated the restraint of trade and anti-monopoly provisions of the Sherman Act by coercing industrial purchasers of concrete products to deal exclusively with the Dunham Companies through strikes, work stoppages, and property damage at construction sites.

The indictment also alleges that the defendants conspired to obstruct and delay construction projects which used competitors' concrete products, to supply truck drivers and equipment operators to concrete suppliers at higher wage rates and upon less favorable terms than those extended to Dunham companies, and to fix

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prices and prescribe areas of sale of concrete products.

The first three counts of the indictment charged Sherman Act violations and the last two were drawn under provisions of the Hobbs Act.

The Hobbs Act counts charge the defendants with extortion through strikes, work stoppages and physical violence at construction sites at Donaldsonville and Plaquemine.

As a result, the indictment charges, competition among concrete suppliers in the Baton Rouge area has been suppressed and purchasers of concrete products have been deprived of an opportunity to purchase their concrete requirements in an open and competitive market and have been required to pay higher prices for concrete products purchased from the defendant suppliers than those of non-defendant suppliers.

#### CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

Industrial, commercial and public construction in the Baton Rouge area has been curtailed and delayed because of these alleged actions, according to the indictment.

It is pointed out that economic development of the Baton Rouge area has accelerated since 1965 with the erection of a number of petrochemical plants and other industrial, commercial and public installations and the development has created a high demand for heavy construction services and building materials, including concrete products.

H. Partin, it is charged as business agent for the union, supplies all union construction contractors and all concrete suppliers in the Baton Rouge area with all of their employees engaged in the loading, transportation, delivery, unloading, handling and warehousing of building materials, including concrete products.

In 1968, the sale and distribution of concrete products in the Baton Rouge area amounted to \$16 million, it is claimed, and the indictment charges that of that amount, the Dunham companies sold 56 per cent, or \$9 million.

The concrete products involved in the charges are primarily ready-mix concrete and concrete pipe.

Maximum penalty for the corporate defendants, if convicted

on each of the Sherman Act charges, is \$50,000. The maximum for the individual defendants under each of the same counts is a \$50,000 fine and one year in prison. Maximum penalty under the racketeering counts upon conviction is 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

At the request of United States Attorney Louis C. LaCour, Federal District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry ordered that the defendants be summoned to appear for arraignment on July 18 and that they post bonds of \$25,000 each at the earliest possible time.

#### KEY TESTIMONY

It was in 1962 that Partin became the No. 1 government informer against International Teamster boss James Hoffa. His testimony was the key to Hoffa's conviction for jury tampering for which Hoffa drew a seven-year prison sentence in 1964.

Prior to testifying for the government, Partin had been in a Baton Rouge jail on a kidnaping charge in connection with the missing children of a fellow teamster. He also was facing 26 counts under a federal indictment accusing him of embezzlement and falsification of union records.

In addition to those charges, Partin faced a negligent homicide charge growing out of a fatal hit-and-run accident in Alabama. Although records have become clouded with time and there was a fire in the Alabama courthouse, it is known he was never tried on the criminal aspects of the charge. However, a civil verdict was rendered.

#### ASSASSINATION PLOT

Partin had been in jail nine days on the kidnaping charge when he told the chief investigator about a plot to assassinate then Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy. The investigator related Partin's story to the Justice Department.

It was at this time also that

Partin convinced Justice Department officials that he had information about Hoffa that would be of value to him.

Partin was given two lie detector tests, and he passed both.

The missing children, for whose disappearance Partin had been charged with kidnaping, were suddenly returned at the courthouse one night and Partin was released on a \$5,000 bond. However, he was never tried on the charge.

Also, the federal indictments for embezzlement and falsification were never pushed.

The U. S. attorney's office in New Orleans sought to have the indictments dismissed last year, but Federal Judge D. Gordon West refused to throw them out, suggesting that Kennedy made a deal to drop the indictment in exchange for Partin's testimony in the Hoffa trial.

#### WENT TO TENNESSEE

Partin went to Tennessee after he was released from jail. His contact there was Walter Sheridan. Hoffa was on trial on another charge.

Following Hoffa's conviction, Teamsters Local 5 split from the International Teamsters Union and Partin became the top Teamsters man in the Baton Rouge industrial area.

With almost a free hand in dealing with industrial contractors, Partin seemed to have immunity from both local and federal prosecution.

During the start of the industrial boom along the Mississippi River in 1965, industrialists soon found they had to deal

with Partin first before they could begin construction projects. Partin could shut down a job being built on a cost-plus basis almost at will.

The soaring construction costs brought on by featherbedding and payroll padding because of competition for skilled labor put pressure on industry in 1967. Costs of some construction projects were almost 50 per cent over original estimates.

Industry then shut down all new plant construction in the Baton Rouge industrial area, throwing some 28,000 men out of work.

Because the governor's industrial development program was facing a crisis and the state's national image was in danger of being smeared, Gov. John J. McKeithen had the legislature create the state Labor-Management Commission.

#### INVESTIGATION BEGUN

A staff of investigators got together and began assembling information on the situation. Partin became their No. 1 target—unofficially.

Once, Partin was charged with aggravated assault on a television photographer at a race track in Ascension Parish, believed to be owned by Partin. However, Partin has never been brought to trial on the assault charge.

Partin claimed the Labor-Management Commission was an effort to get him to change his testimony regarding Hoffa. He contended there was a "fix" attempt involving agents of Hoffa and a meeting with them arranged by former governor's aide Aubrey Young. One of the contacts was Dalton Smith, a New Orleans electrical contractor.

In state court, Smith was

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<p>acquitted of a charge of attempting to bribe Young to arrange the meeting and of trying to get Partin to change his testimony.</p>	<p>Rouge motel, he reportedly changed sleeping places each night, fearing the Mafia had been hired to get him to change his testimony about Hoffa.</p>	<p>most nonexistent in the area. Business and industry have ignored the commission.</p>	<p>case. On the other hand, the antitrust division has been after him.</p>
<p>Partin operated for awhile under protection of two federal marshals. Living in a Baton</p>	<p>Operations of the Labor-Management Commission began to slow down and are now al-</p>	<p>Partin has been the center of a controversy within the Justice Department itself, with one element defending him because of his testimony in the Hoffa</p>	<p>Since the Republican administration took office, pressure has been put on the Justice Department to do something about the situation in Baton Rouge.</p>