

# HOFFA TRIAL CAUSE OF TROUBLE-PARTIN

T. P. 6-22-69

## Gremillion Blames McKeithen for Case Delay

Labor figure Edward Grady Partin said in Baton Rouge Saturday that his trouble which led to his federal indictment was the result of his testimony which helped send Teamster President James Hoffa to jail.

In a related development, Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion charged Saturday that Gov. John J. McKeithen has not provided adequate funds for the state's attempts to prosecute Partin.

"I had no trouble at all, personally, or as a labor leader until 1964, when I testified in the government's case against James R. Hoffa," Partin said through his attorney, William Bradley of Baton Rouge.

Gremillion was responding to a denial from the governor's office that McKeithen "pulled the rug out from under" the attorney general.

### WITHDRAWAL CHARGED

The governor's office, he said, withdrew funds last December from the attorney general's office amounting to about \$4,000 a month, used in assisting the State Labor-Management Commission in its investigations.

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

The governor's chief assistant, W. W. McDougall, says it isn't so.

Partin was indicted by a federal grand jury in New Orleans Friday on five counts charging extortion and conspiracy.

McDougall said the governor "has exerted every possible effort on everybody concerned to see that any case of violation of the law is prosecuted as vigorously as possible."

Gremillion said the cut in funds came when Asst. Atty.

## PARTIN CASE

Continued from Page 1

rate than the original staff.

McFerrin was replaced by Edward J. Roussel, who has announced his intention of leaving.

Along with Partin, the grand jury indicted on the same charges Ted F. Dunham Jr. and three Baton Rouge concrete products firms Dunham controls.

Business manager of Teamster Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge, Partin has been involved in state and federal racketeering probes since a 1962 federal indictment on falsifying union records and embezzlement.

In Friday's indictment, Partin was charged with forcing industrial purchasers of concrete products since early 1966 to deal only with Dunham's firms, which include:

Dunham Concrete Products Inc.; Louisiana Ready-Mix Co. Inc., and Anderson-Dunham Inc.

Partin said that since his testimony against Hoffa, "I have been threatened, harassed, shot at, literally and figuratively."

He said that "the most recent of these occurrences is this indictment by a grand jury which was convened through the insistence and repeated personal intervention with the U.S. Justice Department by Sen. Russell B. Long and his close personal friend and business confidant, Mr. James R. "Buddy" Gill."

Gill is the manager of the Baton Rouge Industrial Contractors Association.

### GOVERNMENT'S TRIAL

"This indictment is the apparent fulfillment of a threat which I received approximately one year ago that unless I changed my testimony that I had given in the government's

trial against Mr. Hoffa that I would be indicted," Partin said.

"Let us make one thing very clear to those persons who have in the past and are now trying to pressure me into changing my testimony.

"This latest development simply firms my resolve never to give in to them," he said.

The indictment said the alleged coercions to buy from Dunham were made through strikes, work stoppages and property damage at construction sites.

"For the last year-and-a-half I have known that certain work stoppages in the concrete industry were brought about so as to provoke this very indictment," Partin said.

Partin said that during that same time "I have had to watch every step that I made because I didn't want to give these same persons any ammunition to use against me."

Dunham said, "the charges made against me and my company are totally incorrect. 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 . . ."

### REFERS TO SUIT

He referred to an antitrust suit filed against him in 1967 by William Heck, an official of the competing Altex Ready Mixed Concrete Co.

In the suit, which has not come to trial, Heck alleged that a conspiracy existed to put him out of business.

The charges concerned alleged violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Hobbs Act, the federal labor anti-racketeering statute.

Hoffa drew a seven-year jail term for jury tampering in 1964 chiefly on the testimony of Partin.

Commenting on Partin's indictment, Ford Lacey, executive vice-president of the Louisiana Manufacturers Association, said, "It is indeed gratifying to see

Gen. Thomas McFerrin was fired as chief counsel for the Labor-Management Commission.

McFerrin, he said, was given leave from his duties in the attorney general's office to work with the commission. The governor, Gremillion added, "assured me that ample funds would be provided for this purpose."

### PAID SALARIES

The monthly fund paid salaries and expenses of investigating attorneys and special assistant Ken Scullin, Gremillion said.

"Four or five convictions were secured as a result of our work," the attorney general said.

One of the principal factors in McFerrin's dismissal was the Labor-Management Commission's reorganization in line with a Civil Service Commission ruling setting up a new investigative section at a much lower pay

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 22, Col. 3

the beginning of federal action on the Louisiana labor-management problems. This move is even more important since no significant progress has been made by law enforcement and prosecuting officials in areas where there is local involvement."

Lacey said that any lasting improvement in the state's business and industrial climate "will have to come with the removal of those people from positions of influence who are responsible for the long-standing problems in the labor-management area.

"Proper law enforcement will undoubtedly accelerate the rate of industrial development in the state which has drastically been curtailed because of its labor problems over the past few years."