

# U.S. Refuses to Help State Return Wanted Labor Leader

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(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The U.S. Justice Department has refused to help the state bring back from Texas a Teamster Union official wanted in Louisiana on a host of charges involving labor racketeering, the States-Item learned today.

The State Labor-Management Commission turned to the federal agency for assistance in a renewed effort to return Wade McClanahan, sometimes described as an assistant business agent for Teamster Local No. 5 of Baton Rouge.

THE LABOR-MANAGEMENT Commission recently informally applied to the Justice Department's criminal division for a federal warrant on a charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, on the basis McClanahan is a fugitive from justice.

The Justice Department declined on the grounds such action is taken only in certain types of cases.

Efforts to extradite McClanahan have been tied up in the Appeals Court in Texas. A state district judge upheld the Texas governor's extradition order.

A SECRET OFFICIAL DOCUMENT based on an interview with McClanahan last year shows that the 240-pound man bragged of influence with the U.S. Justice Department. McClanahan, 35, faces nine charges in Iberville Parish, six in East Baton Rouge, two in Livingston and was convicted of disturbing the peace in Ascension Parish.

The charges ranged from aggravated battery to bombing and possession of a machine gun. Most of the Iberville Parish charges grew out of a shooting melee over a non-union construction job in the town of Plaquemine in January, 1968.

W. W. M'DOUGALL, commissioner of administration and special assistant to the governor, assailed the federal agency for its position. He said that the Justice Department should do everything it can to bring McClanahan to justice.

McClanahan skipped to Dallas and the state has not been able to extradite him. Gov. McKeithen's office recently began pushing efforts to bring him back to the state.

M'DOUGALL PUT PRESSURE on East Baton Rouge Parish Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher to do what he could to speed the extradition.

Davis Guymard, acting chief counsel of the Labor Management Commission, received word yesterday of the Justice Department's refusal to cooperate.

He had earlier been led to believe the department, which has been involved in an internal dispute over Louisiana's labor racketeering situation, would help.

One group within the Justice Department has opposed the Labor Management Commission's efforts on the theory they are designed to help free International Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa from prison.

HOFFA IS IN PRISON on a jury tampering charge and a key government witness was Edward Grady Partin, boss of Teamster Local No. 5 and a chief target of the state probe.

Partin and McClanahan were close associates. The Justice Department has been rapped by Gov. Mc-

Keithen in the past for what he calls its hindering of the Labor Management Commission.

McClanahan bragged to a state official in June, 1968, that a Justice Department attorney, Michael Epstein, talked with a state judge about the disturbing the peace charge on which he was convicted.

**THE CHARGE HAD** been battery, in connection with the beating of a company foreman.

McClanahan was scheduled to appear in Livingston Parish Court for a preliminary hearing June 14 on a charge of possession of a machine gun.

He told the state official he and Partin were scheduled to accompany Epstein to Washington for a meeting.

The Livingston judge bound McClanahan over for trial.

Since the Republican administration took office, there has been some change in sentiment in some sections of the Justice Department toward Partin.

**THE TEAMSTER OFFICIAL** was indicted by a federal grand jury on charge of violating anti-trust laws and extortion.

The latter grew out of the Bergeron Construction Co. shooting incident.