

Louisiana Informer on Hoffa Indicted on Rackets Charges

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BATON ROUGE, La., June 20—Edward Grady Partin, the Baton Rouge Teamster boss who helped send Jimmy Hoffa to prison, was indicted today by a Federal grand jury on five counts of violating the antitrust and antiracketeering laws.

Named with Partin in the same indictment was a Baton Rouge concrete manufacturer, Ted Dunham Jr.

They are accused of conspiring to monopolize trade in concrete products. Three firms controlled by Dunham were named in the indictment.

Dunham denied the charges and Partin was unavailable for comment.

Hoffa Convicted

Partin, business agent of Teamster Local 5, came into prominence in 1962 when he became an informer against Hoffa, International Teamster president. On the basis of Partin's information and testimony Hoffa was convicted in 1964 on a jury tampering charge.

The controversial local Teamster official has been the chief target since 1967 of an investigation by the state Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry, created specially after the Louisiana industries ordered work stopped on some \$500 million in new plants, charging that labor racketeering and featherbedding had caused numerous work stoppages and made costs soar. Some 28,000 workers were laid off and the state's booming industrial development came to a halt.

At the time, Partin held a tight grip on construction bargaining. His Local 5 had split with the international union and was a law unto itself in the Baton Rouge area.

The indictment charged that the defendants conspired to obstruct and delay construction projects that used competitors' concrete products. It also said they tried to supply truck drivers to competitors at higher wage rates than those paid by Dunham.

Work Stoppages Cited

Three of the counts charged violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act and two of the Hobbs Anti-Labor Racketeering Act. The racketeering



EDWARD GRADY PARTIN
... Teamster accused

counts cited strikes, work stoppages and physical violence at jobs in the river towns of Plaquemine and Donaldsonville.

According to the indictment, Partin was responsible for work stoppages in 1966 and 1967 at a job being performed by Raymond International at Donaldsonville.

The stoppages were to force Raymond to buy ready mix concrete from Dunham's firms, the indictment said. Raymond allegedly paid some \$6000 more than the price quoted by other suppliers.

Business and industrial spokesmen have been pressuring the Justice Department since the Republican Administration took office to clean up the labor situation in Baton Rouge.

Indicted in 1962

Partin has claimed that the Labor-Management Commission and its efforts were part of an effort to get him to change his testimony about Hoffa. He also said he was offered up to \$1 million to change his testimony.

Partin previously had been indicted by a Federal grand jury in 1962 on 26 charges of embezzlement of union funds and falsification of union rec-

ords. At the same time he was held in a parish (county) jail without bond on a kidnaping charge.

He made his first contact with the Justice Department then, relating a story about a plot to assassinate then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Although nothing came of the story, Partin did become an informer for the Justice Department. His key contact on the Hoffa case was a former investigator for the Justice Department, Walter Sheridan.

Sheridan has played a role in trying to shield Partin since then. Last year he held a secret meeting with Gov. John J. McKeithen in a Washington hotel room to warn him that efforts to get Partin were instigated by the Hoffa interests.

Inquiry Begun

The Justice Department began an investigation of the Labor-Management Commission and an attorney named Michael Epstein told the Commission chairman that investigators for the Commission were representing Hoffa.

Epstein also made an effort in Federal court last year to have the 26-count indictment against Partin dismissed but was rebuffed by Judge E. Gordon West. Epstein said the best interests of justice would be served by dropping the indictments, but they are still hanging.

Local officials cooperated with the Justice Department in 1962 to free Partin. The non-bondable kidnaping charge was reduced when the two children who had been taken were returned to their mother, the wife of a Teamster member. Partin was freed on bond and the charge was later dropped.

The maximum penalty for the Hobbs Act violation is 20 years' imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine on each count. The antitrust violations carry a maximum penalty of \$50,000 and one year in prison.