

La. Teamster Aide's Extradition From Texas Delayed 3 Months

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(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Extradition proceedings against a Teamster official wanted in Baton Rouge in connection with labor racketeering were delayed three months in Dallas, Tex., because papers were mislaid and a court clerk died, it has been learned.

The delay is expected to set back a decision by the Texas Court of Appeals until September or October on an appeal by Wade McClanahan, an assistant business agent of Teamster Local No. 5.

McClanahan is wanted in Louisiana on a number of charges stemming from the Labor-Management Commission investigation.

HE IS considered one of the key figures in the state probe of the Bergeron Construction Co. shooting melee more than eight months ago.

The state has been trying to extradite the Teamster officer for the past seven months on a conviction in Iberville Parish.

The misdemeanor was a disturbing the peace charge on which McClanahan's attorney entered a guilty plea when the Teamster failed to show up in court for trial in May, 1968.

The governor of Texas authorized the extradition and the issue was taken to court.

ABOUT THREE months ago a state District Court in Dallas ordered McClanahan remanded to Louisiana on the

charge. The Teamster's Dallas attorney filed a appeal.

However, the clerk, an elderly woman, misplaced the appeal papers. They lay unnoticed along with a number of other appeals in a desk drawer. The woman died about a month ago, and no one noticed the missing documents.

The fact that the papers were misplaced was not discovered until the District Attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish inquired of the Texas appellate court the status of the case.

THE LOUISIANA governor's office prodded the district attorney to take action against McClanahan as part of a move to get the Labor Management Commission operations back in gear.

Although the extradition case is an Iberville Parish charge, Baton Rouge District Attorney Sargent Pitcher also initiated extradition proceedings on a theft charge in his parish.

The state attorney general's office promoted both of the charges when it was handling the labor management investigation.

The appellate court notified the District Court in Dallas of the inquiry and a search was launched for the missing files.

ROBERT STINSON, chief of records for the Dallas District Attorney's office, said that the papers are scheduled to be forwarded to Austin in a few days. However, he said, action may not be forthcoming by the appeals court until September or October.

McLanahan, a close associate of Teamster boss Ed Partin, also is wanted for aggravated battery, burglary, simple battery and possession of a machine gun. In some instances bond has been ordered forfeited, including one of \$10,000 in the Bergeron shooting case.