

# Partin Testifies, Claims Immunity

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Edward Grady Partin, controversial Baton Rouge Teamster leader, took the witness stand in federal court here today to support his claim federal authorities promised him immunity from prosecution in labor racketeering cases.

Partin testified before Federal Judge William D. Murray and said a U.S. attorney promised him immunity at a meeting in Nashville in October, 1968, in return for his cooperation in a case involving James L. Hoffa, former international Teamsters Union president now in federal prison.

**PARTIN AND TED** Dunham Jr., head of several Baton Rouge concrete products firms, were indicted last year by a federal grand jury on extortion and conspiracy charges in connection with an investigation by the state Labor Management Commission of Inquiry.

(In an earlier edition today, the States-Item incorrectly identified Ted Dunham Sr. as having been indicted in the case. Partin and Ted Dunham Jr. were the only ones indicted.)

Partin is seeking dismissal of the indictment on grounds of immunity. Today's court action was a hearing on the dismissal request and Partin was called by his attorney, Edward M. Baldin, as the first witness.

**PARTIN SAID HE** met with U.S. Attorney Gilbert Merritt in Nashville on Oct. 4, 1968, and was promised the immunity at that time.

The labor leader testified he talked to Merritt and several other federal officials in great detail about work stoppages in the Baton Rouge area and the work of the la-

bor-management commission.

The indictments against Partin and Dunham stemmed from an accusation they coerced the purchase of products of Dunham's firms through threats of strikes and property damages in violation of antitrust laws.

**JUDGE MURRAY, OF** Butte, Mont., was assigned to the case after federal District Judge E. Gordon West of Baton Rouge recused himself.

Also to be conducted by Judge Murray is an evidentiary hearing on several other defense motions, including one for a change of venue.