

Partin Case 8-1572/70 Reactivated by U.S. Attorney

An 8-year-old, 26-count federal indictment charging Edward Grady Partin with manipulating union funds has been reactivated, U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinghouse said here today.

The 1962 indictment charged Partin, business manager for a Baton Rouge Teamster local, with 13 counts of embezzlement of union funds and 13 counts of making false entries in union books and records.

PARTIN WAS indicted shortly before he testified against James Hoffa in the Teamster president's jury-tampering trial in Nashville. Partin claimed the government promised to drop the indictments in exchange for his testimony.

The case was never prosecuted and in 1967 the Justice Department asked Judge E. Gordon West of U.S. District Court to dismiss the indictment. West refused the government motion, suggesting the move amounted "to a payoff for testimony in the Hoffa case."

"We have reviewed the case and decided it should be reactivated," Gallinghouse said. "We can be ready for trial in this case at any time."

The U.S. attorney said his department would file replies to various motions by Partin by June 5.

ON ANOTHER matter, Gallinghouse said the federal court arraignment for Chevron Oil Co., indicted May 14 for 900 alleged violations of government regulations in offshore oil operations, has been reset for June 3.

The indictment against Chevron followed an oil well fire in the Gulf of Mexico which broke out Feb. 10 and resulted in heavy pollution off the Louisiana coast before the wells were capped at the end of March.

Gallinghouse said teams from the U.S. Geological Survey are inspecting other companies' operations in the Gulf. If violations are found, he said, the data will be presented to a federal grand jury the week of June 9.