

## Partin's Conviction On 3 Counts Set Aside

ATLANTA, March (AP)—A federal judge has set aside the conviction of Louisiana Teamsters' boss Edward Grady Partin on three counts of conspiracy to violate anti-trust laws and ordered a new trial on an extortion conspiracy charge.

Partin, 47, of Baton Rouge, was convicted March 2 of all four charges and his lawyers moved for a mistrial or for the judge to set aside the verdicts.

The ruling, disclosed today, was made by District Court Judge James Battin of Billings, Mont. Battin was the judge for the five-week trial, held in Georgia on a change of venue.

Battin said a new trial date would be set for the extortion conspiracy charge, which alleges that Partin used strong-arm tactics to force a contractor into doing business with Baton Rouge cement producer Ted F. Dunham Jr.

Dunham was convicted last year of conspiring with Partin to gain a monopoly over the business in the Louisiana capi-



EDWARD G. PARTIN

... awaits new trial

tal through labor stoppages, sabotage and various other illegal means.

Partin is business agent of the Teamsters local in Baton Rouge.

His testimony helped the government convict national Teamsters boss James R. Hoffa of jury tampering in 1964. Hoffa has since been pa-

roled.

Judge Battin said he set aside Partin's conviction because he felt assured that appeals courts were almost certain to overturn the conviction on the three antitrust conspiracy charges.

The reason, he said, was that he had not been able to erase from the memory of the jurors certain hearsay evidence admitted in support of a fifth charge that was thrown out by Battin in the course of the trial.

The evidence consisted of testimony about Partin's reputation for violence.

He said the guilty verdicts returned by the jury convinced him that the jurors had not disregarded the disputed evidence.

Battin said that "compartmentalizing information of this is extremely difficult, if not impossible."

"It is the court's opinion that the jury was unable to disregard the information as directed and either consciously or subconsciously this information affected their deliberations on counts one, two and three," he said.