

4/23/73

Dear Ed,

Several days ago AP moved a short piece about Jimmy Hoffa saying that in about 10 days the man who framed him for the Department of Justice would come forward and admit it publicly. Hoffa did say this on the Phil Donahue Show (Crosley, taped WLWD-TV, Dayton).

If you are not familiar with what Hoffa is talking about, he referred to Edward Grady (Whitey) Partin, Teamsters, Baton Rouge, I think Local 5 and business agent. It appears to be true. I have seen a 31-page confession by Partin, made almost two years ago. I have other interests in Partin and would appreciate any kind of rundown you might be able to get, including from Aaron Kohn, who might well know about one of my interests and probably had contacts with another, Walter Sheridan. If you do not know, Sheridan was Bobby Kennedy's ramrod in getting Hoffa. Walter is a straight as a coiled cobra. I'd now be surprised if he was not a major part in framing Hoffa to get him, on the general theory that he was a crook anyway, so anything he did to get a crook was decent and honest. He carries this over into his "reporting". He got NBC into an incredible mess in an enormous libel suit that they should lose, if they haven't already compromised involving the gay owner of a New Orleans bar who, without authentication or rational reason he involved in the JPK assassination. He has at least one reference to me in his book on Hoffa in which almost no single thing is accurate. I wrote him about it three weeks ago, without response.

For your information, not Kohn's, Walter, Partin and the Baton Rouge DA, Sargent Pitcher and DJ (Mike Epstein) had a couple of finks whose path crossed mine, of the many they had. These two are referred to where I am. Walter is so careless with fact he spells the name of one, Brownlee, as ^{Brownlee} ~~Brownlee~~. ~~Mozzils~~ Brownlee was David Ferrie's godson. There was a state legislative committee investigating the Baton Rouge Teamsters. These two were planted on it. They surfaced in a strange way, after a contrived arrests of Brownlee by Pitcher. The weekend before that happened the other, Owen Wyatt, aka John George, spent all Saturday night spilling his guts into my tape recorder. (I gave Louis Ivon, Garrison's chief investigator, the tape. It suffered a mysterious disappearance.) Wyatt's story to me exactly coincided, in his account of his first contact with Sheridan, with other accounts I'd gotten, including from the New Orleans reporter who arranged it. It included an offer of a bribe, details again coinciding. This was in the late spring or early summer of 1968, perhaps April.

There were more than two dozen charges pending against Partin when the feds moved in on him through Pitcher, who had him in jail. Several were capital offenses, murder and kidnapping I remember. Partin was soon sprung. The deal was he fixed the Hoffa case and these charges were dropped. It happened. However, with the change in administration, Partin was charged with other offenses. They have been several trials, after changes of venue. If he was finally convicted, I think this would explain his now helping Hoffa.

I would imagine, from what I know, that Partin is more than the honcho of that local, that having built up a force of goons to control it and local industry, he has his own criminal apparatus and uses it. It is in his outfit and goons that I am interested, not in his fixing the case against Hoffa. Wyatt freely admitted to me, for example, that he was to have bombed a company the name of which I remember as Ball Brothers.

So, included in what I'd like is the names, addresses, phone numbers, makes, etc., on Partin's boys, especially around the time April 1968, more just before that, when these characters and I knew each other. And any of Partin's cominal specialties. With his control of drivers, he could have had quite a courier service going, as with hot paper. He was for a while on horse (no pun). After the deal with the feds, the FBI is said to have helped him break the habit. And with Marcello never touching the stuff, it is possible he was in the heroin racket.

It would be better if my interest were not known. Right before I met them, these two and Sheridan were up to something strange in Detroit. I never got full details. It involved unions and blacks. I have wondered since if there were Illinois connections. These two cats are violent, that involved violence, and be careful, for this could be dangerous. Partin is a very bad guy, capable of anything. Thanks for anything you can do. Wyatt, by the way, had a Mexican connection, a bar and a small distillery in Brownsville and Matamoros, respectively.