

EB108

HOFFA NL 400

CHICAGO (AP)-A NEW ORLEANS BUILDER TESTIFIED MONDAY THAT AN ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE AIDED HIS ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT WIRETAPPING DURING THE CHATTANOOGA, TENN., JURY TAMPERING TRIAL OF JAMES HOFFA, TEAMSTER UNION PRESIDENT.

ZACHARY "RED" STRATE, 47, TOLD A U. S. DISTRICT COURT HEARING THAT JUDGE MALCOLM O'HARA ATTEMPTED TO GET AN "AFFIDAVIT OF CONFESSED WIRETAPPING" FROM A KEY WITNESS AT THE TRIAL.

STRATE SAID THE JUDGE TOLD HIM THAT EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE TEAMSTER UNION LOCAL IN BATON ROUGE, LA., REFUSED TO SIGN THE AFFIDAVIT.

STRATE, HOFFA AND FOUR OTHERS CONVICTED IN 1964 OF MAIL FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY WERE ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT TO RECEIVE A HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER ADMITTED GOVERNMENT WIRETAPPING RESULTED IN EVIDENCE THAT WAS INSTRUMENTAL TO THE CONVICTION.

STRATE'S REMARKS MONDAY CAME DURING CROSS-EXAMINATION BY DONALD PAGE MOORE, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.

MOORE ASKED STRATE IF HE EVER MADE TRIPS WITH JUDGE O'HARA. STRATE SAID THAT HE DID MAKE TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, LAS VEGAS AND OTHER PLACES WITH O'HARA AND THAT HE PAID THE BILLS.

"GENERALLY, WHEN WE TRAVEL TOGETHER, I PAY THE BILLS," STRATE TOLD THE COURT.

STRATE TESTIFIED THAT HE, JUDGE O'HARA AND TEAMSTER OFFICIAL ALLAN DORFMAN MET IN THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF FRANK FITZSIMMONS, ACTING TEAMSTER HEAD SINCE HOFFA WAS JAILED AT LEWISBERG, PA., FOR THE JURY TAMPERING CHARGE.

MOORE ASKED IF STRATE KNEW JUDGE O'HARA WAS IN DEBT BECAUSE OF EXPENSES INCURRED DURING HIS UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST JIM GARRISON FOR THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

STRATE ANSWERED THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW.

STRATE TESTIFIED FIRDAY THAT JUDGE O'HARA ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND WALTER SHERIDAN AN AIDE TO ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DURING KENNEDY'S TERM AS ATTORNEY GENERAL.

BAXEXXX

EB109

STRATE SAID THAT SHERIDAN, NOW AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO., OFFERED TO GIVE HIM EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT WIREAPPING AT CHATTANOOGA IN EXCHANGE FOR STRATE'S HELP IN DISCREDITING GARRISON'S PROBE OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

STRATE SAID THERE WAS NO TAPE RECORDING OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH SHERIDAN WHICH HE SAID TOOK PLACE IN A NEW ORLEANS HOTEL LOUNGE.

STRATE TESTIFIED THAT SHERIDAN TOLD HIM HE WAS WILLING TO HELP STRATE AT THE CHICAGO HEARING IF STRATE WAS WILLING TO HELP SHERIDAN IN NEW ORLEANS.

MOORE SAID SHERIDAN HAS ANSWERED STRATE'S REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE OF WIRETAPPING BY SAYING "THERE WAS NONE, I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T DO ANY BUSINESS."

HOFFA WAS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND FINED \$10,000 FOR THE FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY CHARGES INVOLVING LOANS MADE FROM THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR TEAMSTER PENSION FUND.

GM358PCD AUG 21