

967

Federal Jury Calls Sheridan In Partin Case

Television newsman Walter Sheridan has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury here investigating an alleged conspiracy to buy a new trial for former Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa.

Sheridan, an investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Co., was subpoenaed yesterday to appear Tuesday.

The federal grand jury is looking into charges that \$1 million was offered to Edward G. Partin, Baton Rouge Teamster official, to get him to change his testimony, which figured prominently in Hoffa's conviction for jury tampering.

Testimony in Chicago last month revealed that Sheridan offered information to Strate allegedly damaging to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison if he, Strate, would assist in showing wire-tapping was used to convict Hoffa.

Sheridan, a former investigator for the Justice Department, was gathering information for an NBC program on Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe.

Subpoenaed Thursday to appear at the Tuesday grand jury session were Zachary "Red" Strate, a New Orleans builder presently serving a federal prison term on a conviction of fraud and conspiracy in connection with the Teamsters Union pension fund; Julian M. Levy, court reporter for Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara; Edward M. Baldwin, a New Orleans attorney who was campaign manager for Judge O'Hara in his unsuccessful 1965 bid for the district attorney's office, and Pershing Gervais, formerly Garrison's chief investigator and more recently associated with Strate.

Hoffa, Strate Jail Sentences Are Reinstated

(Special to the States-Item)

CHICAGO — The three-year prison sentence of 47-year-old Zachary "Red" Strate of New Orleans has been reinstated, along with a five-year jail term for Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa.

Strate, whose fine of \$5,000 was also enforced, was among five codefendants whose sentences and fines were upheld in U.S. District Court here. The sentences stem from a 1964 conviction of fraud and conspiracy involving the Teamster Union's multi-million-dollar pension fund.

HOFFA WAS handed his five-year sentence, which is to run consecutively with the eight-year term he is currently serving in Lewisburg, Pa., federal prison for jury tampering, along with a \$10,000 fine.

Judge Richard B. Austin conducted the hearing in U.S. District Court and ruled Aug. 22 that Hoffa did not merit a new trial. The same ruling applied to the five codefendants convicted with Hoffa.

"The government had learned nothing new in an electronically eavesdropped conversation Dec. 2, 1963, between the defendant S. George Burris and Benjamin Sigelbaum," Judge Austin said in passing sentence.

HOFFA SAID nothing in his own behalf yesterday, nor did his lawyer, Maurice J. Walsh, who has promised an appeal.

Judge Austin also reinstated the sentences of the five codefendants. They and Hoffa were convicted of siphoning \$1 million from the pension fund to finance a Sun Valley, Fla., real estate project.

The codefendants and their sentences:

Burris of New York City, 18 months and \$5,000.

Abe Weinbalt, 70, of Miami, one hour in custody and \$5,000.

Zachary Strate Jr., 47, of New Orleans, three years and \$5,000.

Calvin Kovens, 44, Miami, three years and \$5,000.

Benjamin Dranow, 60, formerly of Minneapolis, five years and \$10,000. Dranow was serving a sentence on another charge when he was convicted in 1964.

Schiro Asks 2 Recuse Selves From VCC Vote

Mayor Victor H. Schiro has demanded that the two Vieux Carre Commission members indicted on bribery charges by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury immediately recuse themselves from voting on all commission matters.

Aaron Mintz, chairman, and Rene J. Duffour, member of the commission, were indicted Thursday on bribery charges.

THE DISTRICT attorney's office has charged that the pair accepted a \$2,000 bribe from French Quarter apartment building owner Sol Owens. DA investigators charged that the men told Owens they could swing commission approval of proposed changes on his building in return for the money.

"Mr. Mintz and Mr. Duffour must recuse themselves from participating in the deliberations and decisions of the Vieux Carre Commission as of this moment," said the mayor yesterday in Washington.

Schiro was in Washington for a meeting with officials of the Organization of American States and the National League of Cities regarding the establishment of special courses in city affairs at universities and municipal institutes.

THE MAYOR SAID: "They deserve the opportunity to defend themselves, but I want to make it clear that I will not tolerate improper conduct by members of city boards and commissions, or any employes of city government."