

O'Hara Denies Asking Partin Alter Testimony

Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara says he did not ask a Baton Rouge Teamsters Union official to change his testimony which was instrumental in putting Teamster President James R. Hoffa behind bars in federal prison.

O'Hara's statement came in pleadings filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court yesterday in the state's suit to remove him from office.

THE STATE charges that O'Hara attempted to get Grady Partin of Baton Rouge to alter his testimony given in a federal trial in Chattanooga, Tenn., in an effort to overturn the convictions of Hoffa and New Orleans builder Zachary A. "Red" Strate.

The statement said that O'Hara knew Strate on an intimate basis for more than 16 years, has traveled and dined with him on numerous occasions and has discussed with Strate concerning steps that he, Strate and his counsel were taking in order to set aside Strate's conviction.

O'Hara's statement admitted meeting with Partin and James H. Gill in Baton Rouge in early 1967 when Partin was presented with an affidavit with information of wire tapping purportedly in the possession of Partin.

However, the pleadings insist that the subject of the affidavit in no way bears upon any testimony given by Partin in the trial.

FURTHERMORE, the statement continues, an investigation will show "that there was never a request that any of Partin's testimony be recanted."

Claiming that O'Hara was acting at the request of his close personal friend, Strate, the statement said that the judge was under the impression that he was assisting Strate in securing newly discovered information that could have a bearing on a problem confronting Strate.

He acted without interfering with his functions as a judge, the statement asserted, and at no time did he receive remuneration of any kind.