

## BEATEN IN UNION TAKEOVER, B.R. EXEC TESTIFIES

By BILL LYNCH  
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—A former construction company official today told the state Labor-Management Commission that he was slugged and barred from a warehouse he was managing and the operation was taken over by Teamster Union members.

Clay Jones, warehouse superintendent for the Crawford-Russell Construction Co., was the star witness as the commission moved into the second day of hearings on labor racketeering in the Baton Rouge area.

THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY was building a new plant for Uniroyal in Baton Rouge.

Jones outlined what he said was Teamster influence and dominated over work and equipment rental and threats to his safety that eventually led to his being knocked to the floor by a 265-pound worker who appeared on the job to get him.

Commission member Floyd Boswell of Shreveport praised Jones for his courage in trying to combat the union threats.

"IT'S GOING TO TAKE this kind of courage to eliminate this kind of corruption," Boswell said of the events that have been unfolded before the commission since it began hearings last December.

Edward Grady Partin, business agent for Teamster Local No. 5, asked the commission to allow him to testify, and Chairman Cecil Morgan said that he would be permitted to do so on a scheduled basis.

PARTIN STOOD by the rail in the Senate Chamber during much of the proceedings, which mostly concerned the relationship between the Teamsters and the construction company.

Gov. John J. McKeithen sat at the commission counsel's table during the early part of the hearing.

Today's testimony by Jones was an elaboration of testimony during January concerning the Uniroyal plant construction job in Baton Rouge.

The commission yesterday heard testimony concerning the ready mix concrete competition in Baton Rouge, with a firm operated by Ted Dunham Sr. being accused of having advantages over other firms.

Dunham has volunteered to testify about his operations, but has not been called yet.

On the Uniroyal job, Jones told the commission that trouble with the unions began as soon as a Teamster steward named Don Marionneaux came on the job. He said he was denied access to the warehouse of which

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he was superintendent.

JONES SAID that Marionneaux threatened him and "told me to get out of there or he was going to throw me out."

He said Marionneaux admitted being responsible for an attack on him by a worker who used an alias to get on the job for the sole purpose of accosting him.

Jones said the trouble developed over the rental of equipment from a firm other than Triple-A, which the Teamsters favored.

He told the commission that on a Wednesday after he had rented equipment from another firm he was lured into the warehouse by a Teamster member. The 265-pounder, Jones said, was standing to one side and he (Jones) was expecting the attack.

When he saw the man's arm swinging toward him, Jones said he rolled with the punch to avoid taking it full force and fell to the floor. He said the man, whose alias was Don W. Smith, ordered him to get up but he refused.

Jones said that about a month later he met with Marionneaux and State Police Capt. Joe Greene, who operated an equipment rental firm

also and who has been mentioned prominently in the hearings, to discuss the situation at the job site.

The warehouse superintendent asked Marionneaux if he had sent Smith to get him, adding that "if that goon had wanted to he could really hurt."

"We didn't want to hurt too badly," he quoted Marionneaux as saying. "We just wanted to shake you up a little."

JONES testified that it was common knowledge that the construction company had to rent from Triple A Equipment Co., operated by Bruce Hunt, before it tried to rent from anyone else. In one incident, he said he tried to rent some equipment from Triple A, but that Alex Hunt, one of the partners, said it was not available immediately.

After renting it from another firm he was chastised by union members and the troubles began.

He said he also was told to rent equipment from A-1 Equipment Co., operated by Greene and two other high-ranking state policemen. When he advised that he didn't want to get caught in the middle of a fight between Triple A and A-1 he was told that Partin would fix it.