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Juror Removed In Bribery Trial

By BILL NEIKIRK

BATON ROUGE (AP) — District Court Judge Fred LeBlanc today removed a juror in the Dalton Smith trial after the panel member told the judge he had received a threatening telephone call.

LeBlanc ruled that the juror, Dan Taylor, could not render a fair and impartial decision in the trial of Smith, who is charged with public bribery.

The trial was recessed until this afternoon when attorneys were scheduled to attempt to select another juror.

EAST BATON ROUGE Parish Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher objected to removal of Taylor, calling it a "travesty of justice" that a person can't serve on a jury without receiving threatening calls.

LeBlanc said Taylor told him as court convened this morning that he received an anonymous threatening call at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday. In addition, the judge said Taylor informed him that he

was a member of Teamsters Local No. 5.

ED PARTIN, boss of Local No. 5, is one of the key state witnesses against Smith.

Judge LeBlanc ordered the jury locked up for the remainder of the trial, a practice that he said was unusual in cases of this type.

Smith is accused of offering \$25,000 to Aubrey Young, former aide to Gov. John McKeithen, to get him to set up a meeting with Partin. The alleged purpose of the meeting was to persuade Partin to change his testimony in the James R. Hoffa trial.

A FIVE-MAN, all-male jury was selected yesterday for trial, which got under way after the state apparently located Young.

Young was reported missing earlier in the week. Although he was not seen in the courtroom yesterday, it was presumed he was on hand.

Smith faces a second charge of public bribery in connection with this allegation.