

the Baton Rouge industrial area.

Seemingly under immunity from both local and federal prosecution and closely connected with the state police, Partin operated almost with a free hand in wheeling and dealing with industrial contractors.

WHEN THE industrial boom along the Mississippi River began in 1965 Partin was riding high. He could shut down a job—being built on a cost plus basis—almost at will and industrialists soon found it was necessary to deal first with Partin before they could get off the ground on construction.

In 1967, industry apparently found itself with its backs to the wall under pressure of soaring construction costs wrought by featherbedding and payroll padding because of strong competition for skilled labor.

Costs of some construction projects were nearly 50 per cent over original estimates.

INDUSTRY STRUCK back and closed all new plant construction, laying off some 28,000 men in the Baton Rouge industrial area.

The governor's industrial development program not only was faced with debacle on the state scene, but Louisiana's national image was in danger of a national smear because of the labor difficulties.

To counteract this, Gov. John J. McKeithen had the Legislature create the state Labor-Management Commission, and Partin became the unofficial No. 1 target of a top flight staff of investigators

assembled to develop information on the situation.

PARTIN WAS charged once with aggravated assault on a television photographer for an incident at a controversial race track in Ascension Parish, believed to be owned by Partin, but has never been brought to trial.

After the Labor-Management Commission was formed, Partin started claiming that the whole effort was aimed at getting him to change his testimony regarding Hoffa.

He said there was a "fix" attempt involving agents of Hoffa and a meeting with them arranged by a former aide to the governor, Aubrey Young. One of the contacts was Dalton Smith, a New Orleans electric contractor.

SMITH WAS acquitted of the charge in state court of attempting to bribe Young to arrange the meeting and of Partin to change his testimony.

For a while, Partin continued his operations under the protection of two federal marshals sent to Baton Rouge to watch over him.

Partin, who was divorced, lived at a Baton Rouge motel and reportedly changed his place of sleeping each night.

HE FEARED that the Mafia had been hired by the Hoffa interests to get him to change his testimony.

Partin was so well protected by the Justice Department that the Labor-Management Commission came under close investigation by federal agents for possible conspiracy.

The Labor - Management Commission's operations began to deteriorate and since have become almost nonexistent in the area. Business and industry have shrugged the commission off and now refuse to do business with it because little has been done over the past two years.

There has been a long internal fight within the Justice Department over the Partin business, with one element doing all it could to shield the Teamster official because of his Hoffa testimony.

ANOTHER ELEMENT—the antitrust division—has been after him for two years.

Up until recently the pro-Partin element has had the upper hand. But with the change of administrations from Democrat to Republican, a group of business and industrial spokesmen began applying pressure on the Jus-

tice Department's new top echelon to do something about Rouge area.

They had abandoned all the situation in the Baton hope that the state would act in the matter and were pinning their hopes on the federal government under a GOP administration.

EVEN THE scandal over the Louisiana Loan & Thrift Corp. has become mixed up with the Partin-Hoffa-Labor-Management affair.

Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion, under indictment in the LL&T affair, is convinced that a Justice Department attorney pulled the strings to get the grand jury indictment of him because he was pressing on the Labor-Management probe. Gremillion was handling the investigation for the state at the time, and was responsible for the only prosecutions.

Gov. McKeithen has said that he is convinced that Gremillion was indicted because of the Labor-Management business.

Meanwhile, the umbrella over Partin began to come apart as the anti-trust section began getting the upper hand in the Justice Department which was coming under increasingly sharper criticism for giving Partin what seemed like permanent immunity on everything.

Hoffa, Crime Figure To Receive Hearings

CHICAGO (AP)—Teamsters Union President James Hoffa and Sam "Teetz" Battaglia, a reputed crime syndicate leader, have been transferred from federal prisons to Chicago for hearings to determine if they were convicted illegally.

Attorneys for both men contend they were illegally convicted because their clients were not shown wiretap evidence during their separate trials.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that defendants have a right to see all wiretap evidence used against them.

Government prosecutors maintain the ruling should not apply to Hoffa and Battaglia because wiretap evidence withheld from them had no bearing on their conviction.

Hoffa's July 7 hearing in U.S. District Court will be in connection with a 1967 mail fraud conviction which resulted in a five-year prison sentence. He is now serving an eight-year jury tampering sentence at Lewisburg, Pa., federal prison.