

U.S. Investigates Long's Ex-Aide In Hoffa Jury Tampering Case

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Special to The New York Times

12 SEP 69

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11—The Department of Justice is investigating charges that a former aide to Senator Russell B. Long, Democrat of Louisiana, participated in an effort to nullify the 1964 jury tampering conviction of James R. Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The beginning of this investigation prompted Senator Long to warn two Justice Department officials that they risked prosecution in the Louisiana courts if they persisted, according to The Washington Post.

Senator two days after James Gill, his friend and former assistant, had been subpoenaed by the Federal grand jury in New Orleans, where the Justice Department's investigation then centered. The subpoena was served on Mr. Gill July 11, association in Baton Rouge, reportedly has made overtures to three Government witnesses in the Hoffa jury tampering case.

One of these witnesses was Judge William Hawk Daniels, now a member of the Baton Rouge City Court. At the time of Hoffa's conviction, Judge Daniels was an assistant district attorney in Baton Rouge Parish.

'Helpful to Hoffa'

Judge Daniels said today that he was approached by and met with Mr. Gill, a casual acquaintance, in the spring of 1967, prior to a hearing on May 9 in Federal Court on Hoffa's motion for a new trial.

"He indicated he had many contacts with Senator Long," Judge Daniels said.

"At the time," the judge continued, "he was on a particular job for the International Broth-

erhood of Teamsters in Washington, which thought he could be helpful to Hoffa."

"He said he had unlimited authority to negotiate any sort of reward to obtain new evidence in the Hoffa case, Judge Daniels added, reiterating to Mr. Gill. "He said he was willing to listen to any proposition that I might have."

Hoffa Informer

In the Hoffa trial, Judge Daniels contradicted defense assertions that he and his then-superior, District Attorney Sargent Pitcher of Baton Rouge, had arranged for one of their prisoners to become an informer on Hoffa.

Mr. Gill has acknowledged in a state court hearing that he also approached Mr. Pitcher. Mr. Pitcher could not be reached for elaboration.

Their prisoner was Edward Grady Partin, head of the teamsters' Local 5 in Baton Rouge, who was a key witness in the Government's case against Hoffa.

Mr. Partin is a defendant in a 1962 Federal case that is still pending, charging him with embezzling \$1,300 in union funds, and a 1969 Federal antitrust and antiracketeering case.

In an interview today, Mr. Partin said Mr. Gill had, alone and with others, attempted to get him to change his testimony. "He wanted me to perjure myself," Mr. Partin said. "A million dollars would be no problem" if he would agree to do so, Mr. Partin quoted Mr. Gill as saying.

At a subsequent meeting in Mr. Gill's office, Mr. Partin said he was offered, and refused to sign, an affidavit in his name that said the Government had used illegal electronic eavesdropping in the jury-tampering case against Hoffa.