

Statement Given B.R. Jury

Not Witness, Judge Says

Baton Rouge City Court Judge William Hawk Daniels today denied he is the "mystery witness" wanting to testify before a special federal grand jury investigating labor racketeering.

He issued a statement to the foreman of the jury today in connection with the alleged delivery of shells from the Texaco refinery project for a road on the farm owned by Mrs. Sargent Pitcher, wife of the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney.

SHORTLY AFTER noon the special grand jury was dismissed, one year after it was formed to investigate alleged

labor irregularities in the Baton Rouge area.

U.S. Attorney Gerald J. Gallinghouse said no additional witnesses will be called before the jury. He said the jurists' terms will expire Friday and that investigation of any future racketeering will be handled by regular grand juries for which normal terms are four months.

The States-Item reported yesterday Judge Daniels, a close friend of indicted Teamster leader Edward Grady Partin, wants to recount his information on the shell delivery to the grand jury.

IT ALSO was reported that Gallinghouse is believed to be wary that Daniels' approach could be a late effort to influence the upcoming trial of Ted Dunham, concrete magnate who was indicted with Partin.

In his statement Judge Daniels said:

"Apparently Mr. Gallinghouse has conveyed to you and the public that I was seeking immunity from some dark and yet undiscovered crime about which only Mr. Gallinghouse knows and that I was seeking in some way to disrupt the upcoming trial in federal court of Ed Partin

and Ted Dunham.

"Please be advised that I have never sought to appear before the grand jury although I have never yet dodged a subpoena and have never failed to waive any and all immunities prior to testifying. I am sure you know that I told Mr. Kenneth C. Scullin, assistant attorney general for the state of Louisiana, that I did not care to meet with you in response to the query he said was initiated by you.

"Please be advised that I know absolutely nothing about shells on the properties owned by Mrs. Pitcher."

Judge Daniels said he will gladly appear before the grand jury but asked that if Gallinghouse is present that he be placed under oath and that he not be allowed "to testify under the thinly veiled pretense of interrogating me."

CHARGING THAT Gallinghouse sought to intimidate him, Judge Daniels stated:

"The low estimate in which I hold this turncoat and scalawag who got a responsible job in the administration of justice in our troubled land cannot be conveyed to you by words on this piece of paper."

The special grand jury was scheduled to expire Oct. 1 but was renewed for 10 days by Federal District Judge Lansing L. Mitchell after an unusual appeal by the jury's foreman.

Lansing referred the request to Gallinghouse, who at first turned it down, later decided in favor of the extension after the mystery witness was revealed.