

Trial May Last Over a Month

Partin Jury Selection Begins

ATLANTA (AP) — The second criminal conspiracy and extortion trial of Louisiana Teamster official Edward Partin opened today with jury selection.

U.S. District Court Judge James F. Battin of Billings, Mont., told 67 prospective jurors that the trial might last four weeks or more.

He excused from jury duty 21 persons who said the length of the trial would cause personal hardship.

One man was excused when he said he had business interests in Louisiana.

A young woman was excused when she said she was prejudiced against unions in general and the Teamsters in particular.

Partin's first trial on three counts of conspiracy and two of extortion ended in a mistrial last summer in Butte, Mont. Partin, 46, was indicted by a federal grand jury in New Orleans in 1969, but his lawyers succeeded in moving the trial from Louisiana on a change of venue motion.

They asked that the trial be moved to Atlanta because most of the witnesses live in the South. Partin is business agent for Teamster Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge.

SIXTY-SEVEN WITNESSES gave more than 300,000 words of testimony during Partin's four-week trial. The mistrial was declared after the jury

failed to reach a decision.

Partin and Baton Rouge businessman Ted F. Dunham, a concrete producer, were accused of taking part in an alleged scheme to use strong-arm tactics to monopolize the concrete business in Baton Rouge. The government charges that they extorted contractors into dealing with Dunham's firms by threatening strikes, work stoppages and labor violence.

They were charged with conspiring to violate antitrust laws.

Dunham was convicted by a federal jury in New Orleans last year and sentenced to one year in jail. He and three of his corporations were fined \$160,000.

PARTIN, FREE UNDER \$52,000 bond, is also under indictment charging him with intimidation of a witness in his first trial by threatening him with death. The government witness, former Teamster Wade McClanahan, testified in Butte that he solved problems for Partin with shootings, beatings, threats and sabotage.

Partin's lawyers argued in the trial that the labor leader had no hand in violence and acted only in legitimate union grievances raised by his local.

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