

Chandler Gives 'Limited Data' To Labor Panel

BATON ROUGE (AP)—Newsmen Dave Chandler of Life magazine testified today before the governor's antirackets commission investigating labor and management strife in this area, but his attorney indicated he had little to offer the group.

"His own knowledge was very limited in the area in which he was interrogated," said attorney Cicero Sessions of New Orleans afterward.

SESSIONS WENT into the hearing chamber with Chandler. The writer referred newsmen's questions to his attorney.

Sessions said the questioning was confined to labor and management matters and had nothing to do with crime in general.

He declined to comment on the substance of the questions or persons involved because the questions "involve grand jury inquiries."

Life, in a series of articles on organized crime in Louisiana, said a \$1 million bribe offer was made to Baton Rouge Teamsters official Edward Grady Partin in an alleged attempt to buy former Teamsters President Jimmy Hoffa's way out of prison.

Partin was called to testify later today before the Labor-Management Commission on Inquiry.

Chandler's appearance led to speculation that the commission was expanding its probe to take up the alleged bribe offer.

Asked whether Chandler had been called to testify about the bribe offer or any facet of organized crime, Sessions said, "We don't know. He hasn't been questioned at all by anyone from the commission."

The commission was ordered to investigate whether any violations of state or federal laws occurred during a summer-long labor and management crisis in Baton Rouge.

Partin yesterday called the commission's secret probe a "whitewash," protesting that "I'm the lamb being led to the cross."

The state Labor-Management Commission of Inquiry is hearing from about 40 witnesses in week-long sessions aimed at determining whether federal or state law was violated in last summer's industrial construction stoppage.

PARTIN, WHOSE testimony in the jury tampering trial of Jimmy Hoffa helped put the former Teamsters president behind bars, said he believed the commission was making him the goat of labor-management troubles.

Partin, business agent for Teamsters local No. 5, objected yesterday to the hearing secrecy.

"If they're not trying to sift out and whitewash, why are they barring you?" he asked newsmen in a corridor. "I'm going to ask that you be admitted. Since I'm the lamb being led to the cross, I'm going to have witnesses."

Partin said he would file a damage suit against the commission for what he called harassment and intimidation.

Kohn on Trip; Orleans Crime Probe Stalled

The organized crime probe of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury was stalled today because its intended star witness was out of town.

The jury had invited (not subpoenaed) Aaron Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, to appear today to give more testimony. He has testified several times already.

However, Kohn's office reported he has been out of town for more than a week and is not due back until next Monday.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Numa Bertell said Kohn would be invited again next week.

Asst. DA Charles Ray Ward said Kohn, at his most recent appearance in September, had asked for a police officer to be assigned to him to help prepare more material from his files for the jury's consideration.

Ward said Sgt. Jerry Lankford of the vice squad was so assigned on Sept. 21, and the jury was ready to hear results of this action.

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