

DENIES YOUNG BRIBE TRY

Money Offer Called 'Friendly Gesture'

By JACK KEEVER

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—Dalton C. Smith's alleged \$25,000 bribe offer to Louisiana Gov. John J. McKeithen's former body-guard was just a gesture to help a friend in a financial bind, Smith's lawyer claims.

Lawyer Jack Gray argued yesterday that the alleged incident had nothing to do with Aubrey Young's official duties as an aide to McKeithen.

Appearing before Texas Secretary of State John Hill, Gray protested an attempt by Louisiana to extradite Smith on public bribery charges. Smith is accused of offering \$25,000 for Young to act as middleman to get Edward Grady Partin to change testimony in the jury tampering trial of Teamsters Union Chief James Hoffa.

PARTIN, a Baton Rouge Teamsters' leader, was a surprise witness for the government at the 1962 trial of Hoffa in Chattanooga, Tenn. He claimed he had been offered \$1 million to change his testimony.

Smith was indicted Sept. 29 by the East Baton Rouge Grand Jury and surrendered Oct. 3 at Denton, Tex., where he was released under \$1,500 bond.

Gray said Louisiana wanted Smith back for "purely political" reasons.

THE LAWYER presented a bill of particulars stating that "in no event" could a request from Smith for Young to arrange an introduction with Partin "relate in any manner to Mr. Young's official duties as an aide to the governor of Louisiana."

"You can split hairs all day about whether he (Young) was acting in a public or private capacity, but they are pretty hard to separate," said Hill.

Hill allowed Gray and lawyer John L. Sullivan, both of Denton, three weeks to prepare a brief on the extradition re-

quest. This means it will be a month or more before Hill recommends a course of action to Texas Gov. John Connally.

SMITH did not attend the extradition hearing.

Young testified that Smith had asked him for an introduction to Partin. At the time, Young said, Smith asked how much money he owed.

"About \$27,000," Young said he had replied, and he said Smith asked, "Would \$25,000 help?"

"It would help anyone," Young said he had answered, but added that he merely asked Smith to pay off a \$10,000 note given by Smith and which Young had signed.

HILL asked if he accepted the \$25,000, and Young replied, "No sir."

Under Louisiana law, an offer is the same as a bribe.

Young described Partin as a casual acquaintance and said they went to the home of Smith, a closer friend.

"Did you regard Smith's offer as a bribe?" Hill asked.

"No sir," replied Young. "I really didn't know his motive."

Gray said the \$25,000 offer was a gesture from one friend to another who was in a "financial bind."

Walter Smith of the Baton Rouge district attorney's office asked Young if he heard Smith offer money to Partin, and Young said, "\$65,000 was offered at the second meeting by Smith to get Partin to change his testimony in the Hoffa trial."