

DREW PEARSON

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Partin Reign May Be Short-Lived

BATON ROUGE—Edward G. Partin, star witness in the trial of Jimmy Hoffa, is now reigning supreme over the Teamsters in central Louisiana.

"I'm not going to have Partin and a bunch of hoodlums running this state," Gov. McKeithen told us. "We have no problems with law-abiding labor. But when gangsters raid a construction project and shoot men up at work I'm going to do something about it. Partin has two Justice Department guards with him for

fear Hoffa will retaliate against him," Gov. McKeithen said. "This gives him immunity."

The governor referred to an incident in Plaquemine when 45 to 50 men shot up 30 workers of the W. O. Bergeron Construction Co. who were laying a sewer. The shooting occurred when the labor gangsters tried to prevent work on the project and, having failed, opened up with shotgun fire.

Bergeron, president of the Baton Rouge Construction Co.; his father, Ivy J. Bergeron, 63; and A. C. Bergeron, his brother, were wounded.

PARTIN IS the man whom Chief Justice Warren described as "a jailbird languishing in a Louisiana jail under indictments for such state and federal crimes as embezzlement, kidnaping and manslaughter." He was taken out of jail to testify against Hoffa at Chattanooga. As a



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reward for his testimony, Partin was permanently released and, as Chief Justice Warren put it, "the state charges have apparently vanished into thin air."

While in a Baton Rouge jail, Partin confided to a cellmate: "I know a way to get out of here. They want Hoffa more than they want me."

Baton Rouge has never had such a siege of labor violence as it's seen since Partin came back from the Chattanooga trial with two Justice Department guards to protect him.

PRESIDENT Johnson may not know it, but friends of ex-Gov. George Wallace of Alabama are planning to keep LBJ's name off the ticket in Louisiana next November.

Leander H. Perez Sr., boss of the so-called Democratic Party in Southern Louisiana, is maneuvering to give George Wallace the emblem of the rooster, which on a Louisiana ballot means the Democratic Party. He would also give George Wallace the Democratic nomination. Johnson would have to run on a ticket other than the Democratic party and get an emblem other than the rooster.

With Johnson anything but popular in Louisiana, as a result of his championship of civil rights and his appointment of Negroes to the cab-

inet and the Supreme Court, he faces a rough race anyway. And to run on an independent ticket, without the rooster, would mean certain defeat.

The only way Johnson could get his name on the ticket would be to get 1,000 independent voters to sign a petition and there are probably not 1,000 registered independents in Louisiana.

Gov. McKeithen, however, has some ideas of his own on this battle of the ballots.

"I'M NOT going to have a ballot minus the names of either of the candidates of the two major parties," he told us.

"Somebody asked me who is going to put Johnson's name on the ballot. I told him 'I am. I'm the governor.'"

"I like Judge Perez," said the governor. "He said when I was elected that he would differ with me 'frequently.' I'm going to differ with him occasionally. This is one of those occasions."

Gov. McKeithen has his own way of dealing with Rap Brown, the Ku Klux Klan and other racial extremists. Last year, Brown came to Baton Rouge with the announced intention of staging a draft-card-burning rally. Simultaneously, a contingent of the KKK arrived from Georgia intent on breaking up the rally.

McKeithen got word of all

this in advance and announced: "If anyone violates the law of the United States, whether white or black, they'll land in jail."

Simultaneously he summoned 2,000 state troopers to remain in the background in case of trouble. Rap Brown appeared but burned no draft cards.

When asked for comment regarding the tactics of the governor of Louisiana, Brown said: "How can I comment on the actions of a moron?"

DR. ALTON Ochsner of Tulane University is the first man to call public attention to the link between cigarettes and cancer. Dr. Ochsner has removed approximately 2,000 lungs as a result of cancer.

"While the death rate from smoking is high," he told us recently, "most people forget the loss to the nation from sickness. In 1965 there were 88 million man days lost from sickness in bed as a result of cigarettes. In addition, there were 76 million man days lost from work. On top of this there were 360 million man days lost as a result of partial disability."

"If you figure that it costs \$40 a day to support an ill patient and \$20 a day to support a partially ill patient, that makes a total expense of \$15 billion lost through illness from cigarettes."