

A States-Item **FIRST**

Iberville Labor Rackets Probe Launched by FBI

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched its own probe of alleged labor racketeering in Iberville Parish, the States-Item learned today.

The bureau, which sent agents to the scene after the shooting incident at a Plaquemine construction site, has been rounding up information on other cases as well.

THE FBI first took the position there was no indication of a federal violation in the shooting scrape.

The FBI has since been interviewing many of the same individuals already questioned by state investigators.

In New Orleans, an FBI spokesman confirmed that the

organization is investigating, but said the FBI's efforts are to determine if there has been any violation of federal anti-trust laws.

The spokesman said the investigation was undertaken at the request of the antitrust division of the Justice Department.

The Iberville Parish labor

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situation has been the initial target of the state Labor-Rackets Commission.

After the shooting episode at a drainage construction project, investigators from the Labor-Management Commission transferred their base of operations to the state police.

ACTIVITY BY the commission has ground to a halt while the staff is under jurisdiction of the state police and Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion.

Gremillion is preparing ouster proceedings against Sheriff Jessel Ourso of Iberville Parish, but the lengthy document, which is to be filed in 18th Judicial District Court, has not been completed.

Ourso testified before the East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury yesterday, but it was not disclosed as to what case. Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher has been investigating the alleged sale of jobs in Baton Rouge brought out by the Labor-Management Commission at its hearings.

Ourso appeared at the grand jury session accompanied by his attorney, Ossie Brown, of Baton Rouge.

Apparently the FBI and the state investigators are conducting separate probes, although they cover the same ground.

There have been frequent reports that the U.S. Justice Department, which has jurisdiction over the FBI, has been protecting Edward Grady Partin, Baton Rouge teamster boss.

IT WAS PARTIN'S testimony in a jury tampering trial that was largely responsible for the conviction of international teamster president James Hoffa.

Partin has identified himself as the No. 1 target of the Labor - Management rackets probe and Gov. John McKeithen declared that Partin's union, Teamsters Local 5, was responsible for the fracas between a nonunion contractor and a large group of men.

Union Job Shakedown Charge Filed by DA

BATON ROUGE (AP) — East Baton Rouge Parish Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher has charged Leo J. Arnold of Baker in an alleged labor shake-down scheme.

Pitcher charged Arnold yesterday with theft by fraud of \$700 from A. C. Hinds of Gonzales.

"This falls right into the teeth of what the governor's been talking about — shake-downs, labor racketeering," Pitcher said.

He added, however, "I can't connect it with any overall conspiracy in this jurisdiction."

The bill alleged that Arnold offered to get Hinds a pipefitters building and trades union book from Oklahoma for \$700.

The book would have enabled Hinds to work as a union pipefitter after transferring membership to a Baton Rouge local.

Pitcher said when no book was produced, Hinds went to Victor Bussie, state president of the AFL-CIO, who turned over the matter to the district attorney's office.