

Huge Bribe Offered Partin, Smith Trial Jury Is Told

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — A state prosecutor said today that Baton Rouge Teamster boss Edward Grady Partin was offered anywhere from \$65,000 to \$1 million to change his testimony in an effort to free international Teamster president James Hoffa from federal prison.

Ralph Roy, an assistant district attorney in East Baton Rouge Parish, made the claim as the trial of Dalton Smith, New Orleans electrical con-

tractor, got under way this morning. Smith is accused of offering a \$25,000 bribe to Aubrey Young, former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen, to arrange a meeting with Partin.

SMITH IS being tried on a grand jury indictment that he tried to bribe Young, and is also charged under a bill of information with attempting to influence a witness (Partin) in a matter still pending in court.

Partin was a key federal witness in a jury tampering

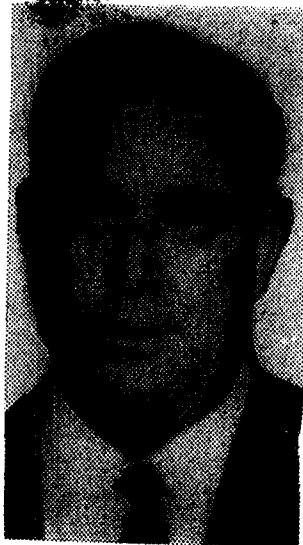
trial in Chattanooga which led to Hoffa's imprisonment.

The prosecutor's comments came in an opening statement to a five-man jury.

The case is being tried before district Judge Fred LeBlanc, but earlier in the day another district judge, Donovan Parker, overruled a motion by defense counsel to quash the grand jury indictment.

The off-postponed trial has

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—States-Item photo.
DALTON SMITH

Smith--

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been shifted from two other judges' courts.

Roy said that Smith had known Young for sometime when he contacted him in the latter part of January, 1967. He said Smith had moved to Baton Rouge just before the incident with Partin and moved away shortly after.

HE SAID SMITH asked Young to arrange a meeting with Partin and offered him \$25,000 to do that.

A few days after the initial contact, Roy said that Young went to Partin's apartment at a Baton Rouge hotel and induced the Teamster official to meet with Smith.

He told the jury Partin was reluctant but Young said, "It will mean a little money to me."

The two then drove to Smith's house, Roy said, where Young drank coffee with members of Smith's family while Partin and Smith discussed the proposition.

"THE PRICE STARTS at \$65,000 and on up to a million," Partin was told, according to Roy.

Partin said that he didn't know how he was going to change his testimony in light of the questions asked him at Chattanooga, Roy said. As soon as the meeting was over the Teamster official got in touch with federal authorities and was advised to go along with Smith.

Roy said that two other meetings were held between Partin and Smith at Young's house and on one occasion an "Eastern lawyer" came down to talk with Partin to explain how he could change his testimony.

THEY FINALLY told Partin money was no object, the prosecutor told the jury.

At one of the meetings, Smith called Hoffa on the telephone in Florida and then called someone in Chicago about the situation, Roy said.

Roy said that the whole thing then fell through. Afterwards Young got in touch with New Orleans underworld figure Carlos Marcello about the money but was told there was nothing to be done, Roy said. It was not explained what Marcello's interest was in the affair.

IN ITS OPENING statement, the defense said merely that the state would not be able to provide evidence to prove Smith was guilty and that in fact he was not guilty. The defense objected to inclusion of the charge of attempted bribery of a witness in the case, but was overruled by the judge.

Both Young and Partin were on hand to testify this morning. There have been frequent postponements of the trial because the state had not been able to provide its key witnesses all the time.

The first witnesses were expected to be called this afternoon.