

STATES-ITEM

Cases Are Rested In Bribery Trial

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE—The state and the defense today began final arguments after resting their cases in the public bribery trial of Dalton Smith, New Orleans electrical contractor.

The defense called only one witness, a deputy clerk of court in an effort to show that no one else had been charged by the state with a conspiracy.

However, the court refused to permit the testimony and the defense abruptly rested.

Testimony was concluded yesterday by two key witnesses for the prosecution, Edward G. Partin and Aubrey Young, who said bribe offers were made in exchange for testimony that wire tapping was used in the conviction of International Teamster Union president James Hoffa in Tennessee.

Smith is charged in 19th Judicial District Court with attempting to bribe Young, a former aide to Gov. John J. McKeithen, and attempting to influence the testimony of Partin in a pending legal proceeding.

PARTIN IS business agent of Teamster Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge and was a star witness at a jury tampering trial in Chattanooga, Tenn., where Hoffa was convicted.

Partin told a five-man jury he was offered \$65,000 as a replacement for a trust fund supposedly set up for him by the late Robert F. Kennedy, who as attorney general pushed the Hoffa trial.

The Teamster boss denied that he knew of any such trust fund.

He said Smith never made the offer directly, but said, "He said they would give me \$65,000."

PARTIN SAID he has been offered up to a million dol-

lars by interests seeking the release of Hoffa from a federal prison.

A rehearing of the Hoffa conviction has been ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court to determine if any wire tap information entered the case.

Although Smith was brought to trial on an indictment of attempting to bribe Young with \$25,000 to arrange a meeting with Partin, the court has allowed inclusion of the attempt to influence Partin.

The teamster leader said he met with Smith at Young's residence in Baton Rouge, at Smith's temporary home in Baton Rouge and at a side road near Gramercy in January or February of 1967.

AT THE ROAD side meeting Partin said that an administrative aide to Hoffa, James Hardin, made the \$65,000 offer to replace the trust fund.

He said he told them there was no wire tapping and there was no trust fund.

He said that teamster attorney Morris Shiffler met with him at Young's residence and tried to get him to sign an affidavit that there was wire tapping.

The Hoffa supporters told him that if he signed the affidavit he would not be committing perjury, because they could prove that wire tapping occurred.

"THEY WANTED ME to say there was wire tapping up there," Partin said. "I assured them again there wasn't."

The state has a number of persons subpoenaed, including a woman companion of Young who allegedly was present at one meeting. Assistant district attorney Ralph Pey said he didn't know how many more or what witnesses the state would call.

The trial, which began last week, could end today.