

Baton Rouge labor figure Edward Grady Partin was indicted today by the federal grand jury in New Orleans on five conspiracy and extortion charges.

Partin was indicted along with one other individual and three corporations for criminal conspiracy to monopolize trade in concrete products and with extortion.

Conviction on the extortion charge carries a maximum 20-year jail term and \$10,000 fine. The conspiracy charge—a violation of the federal Sherman Antitrust Act—carries a \$50,000 fine for the corporations and the same fine with a one-year jail term for the individuals involved.

BOND WAS SET AT \$25,000 by Federal District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry and must be posted in Baton Rouge by July 18. Judge Christenberry set this figure at the request of U.S. Attorney Louis C. LaCour.

Indicted besides Partin were Ted F. Dunham of Baton Rouge, Dunham Concrete Products Inc., Louisiana Ready-

Mix Co. Inc., and Anderson-Dunham Inc.

The indictment listed Dunham as an officer of the three firms, and Partin as business manager, secretary and treasurer of the General Truck Drivers, Warehousemen and Helpers Local No. 5. Partin was a key government witness at the trial of Teamster boss James Hoffa which resulted in the prison term Hoffa is now serving.

U.S. Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell announced the indictment in Washington at the time it was made public here. He said it charges the defendants and unnamed parties with

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### Gremillion Blames McKeithen

Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion declared in Baton Rouge that the reason Edward Grady Partin wasn't being prosecuted on the state level was because Gov. John J. McKeithen pulled the rug out from under him.

"We did our best until we got the rug pulled out from us," Gremillion said. "The governor is responsible. He took my money away."



EDWARD GRADY PARTIN

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conspiring since early 1966 to force industrial purchasers of concrete products to buy exclusively from Dunham companies, using strikes, work stoppages and property damage at construction sites.

The indictment also charges the defendants conspired to:

—Obstruct and delay construction projects which used competitors' concrete products.

—Supply truck drivers and equipment operators to concrete suppliers and at higher wage rates and upon less favorable terms than those extended to Dunham companies.

—Fix prices and prescribe areas of sale of concrete products.

The defendants also were charged with two counts of extortion under the labor racketeering provisions of the Hobbs Act through strikes, work stoppages and physical violence at construction sites in Donaldsonville and Plaquemine.

As a result, the indictment said, competition among concrete suppliers in the Baton Rouge area has been suppressed and purchasers of concrete products have been

deprived of an opportunity to purchase their concrete requirements in an open and competitive market.

IN 1968, the sale and distribution of concrete products in the Baton Rouge area amounted to \$16 million. Of that amount, the Dunham companies sold 56 per cent or \$9 million.

The concrete products involved are primarily ready mixed concrete and concrete pipe, which are vital to the continued growth and expansion of the Baton Rouge industrial area.

In Baton Rouge, Dunham denied the charges against him.

He said in a statement:

"The charges against me and my company are totally incorrect. I have known for some time that such complaints have been made and I think they are the outgrowth of a civil suit against me and others filed in March of 1967 and not yet brought to trial.

"AN INDICTMENT by the grand jury is only a charge and while, of course, I deeply regret it, I feel sure that when I have my day in court the charge will be found incorrect."

# Partin Hoffa Case Informer

Baton Rouge labor figure indicted by a federal grand jury today on conspiracy and extortion charges, first became the fair-haired boy of the Justice Department in 1962, when he became the government's No. 1 informer against International Teamster boss James Hoffa.

It was Partin's testimony that was the key to convicting Hoffa of jury tampering for which Hoffa drew a seven-year prison sentence in 1964.

PARTIN WAS in a Baton Rouge jail under a kidnaping charge and was faced with 26 counts under a federal indictment accusing him of embezzlement and falsification of union records.

He also was faced with a negligent homicide charge growing out of a fatal hit and run accident in Alabama. The records on this charge have become clouded with time and

a tangle in an Alabama courthouse. However, he never was tried on the criminal aspects although a civil verdict was rendered against him.

Partin already had been behind bars nine days on the unbondable kidnaping charge when he approached the chief investigator (now City Judge Hawk Daniels) for the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney.

THE TEAMSTER boss, who grew up in the violence of poverty, related a bizarre story of a plot to assassinate then Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The district attorney notified the Justice Department, which was somewhat skeptical but decided to investigate. Two lie detector tests were given Partin and he passed both.

At the same time, Partin apparently convinced the Justice Department officials that he was close enough to Hoffa that he could be of service to them.

ALTHOUGH NOTHING came of the assassination story, Partin did gain his freedom from the Baton Rouge jail. The children of a co-Teamster who had been missing were suddenly returned in a midnight rendezvous at the parish courthouse.

Partin had been jailed in connection with the disappearance of the children.

Partin's bond was set at \$5,000 and he was released. He never was brought to trial on the charge and the federal indictments for embezzlement and falsification were never pressed. In fact, only last

year, the U.S. attorney's office in New Orleans sought unsuccessfully to have the indictments dismissed.

Federal Judge E. Gordon West, in refusing to throw out the indictments, suggested that Kennedy made a deal to dismiss the indictment against Partin in exchange for his testimony in the Hoffa case.

WHEN PARTIN was released from jail he went to Tennessee, where Hoffa was on trial on another charge. His main contact there was Walter Sheridan, a former investigator for the Justice Department whose name has cropped up frequently since then in various investigations in Louisiana.

After the Hoffa conviction, Teamsters Local No. 5 split from the International Teamsters Union and Partin became sole boss of his own empire in