

No.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, taken Saturday,
March 27, 1971, at 7:05 o'clock p.m., at 13044 Hartsock,
Sherman Oaks, California, before David Newman, C.S.R., Notary
Public.

APPEARANCES:

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SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1971, 7:05 p.m.

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BY MR. KRAMER:

Q What is your full name?

A Edward Grady Partin.

Q Of what city?

A Baton Rouge.

Q Louisiana?

A Yes.

Q Your address?

A It is Postoffice Box 526, is the mailing address.

Q And you have come here to give an affidavit with regard to certain facts that occurred back in 1962, is that correct?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q Can you tell us what those facts are?

A Well, it was involving the Hoffa case in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the facts were that the witness was coached prior to his testimony every day.

Q By the witness, do you mean yourself?

✓ A Yes, that is correct, coached and told what to say, and the witnesses to this, me being coached, would be Ernest Tucker and Johnny Burch, who was present at the times that it

1 was being done and coached and written down on paper and given
2 to me the night before to go on the witness stand.

3 Q Who are these men?

4 A They are members of Local No. 5 that was present
5 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, during the trial.

6 One of them is an Executive Board member of Local
7 No. 5.

8 Q Executive Board?

9 A Yes, that is correct.

10 Q And are they the ones who coached you?

11 A No, no, no. The government attorneys.

12 Q Who were the government attorneys?

13 A ✓ The main one was out of Detroit, Michigan. You
14 would have to get -- it is a matter of court record there in
15 Detroit, Michigan. I can't remember. A big fellow.

16 Q Was that Walter Sheridan?

17 A No, he wasn't the attorney.

18 Q Peterson?

19 A No.

20 Q Miller?

21 A No.

22 Q McLauren?

23 A No. If you had the court reporter -- he is an
24 attorney that was involved in a case in Detroit, Michigan.

25 Q Was there anybody else present?

26 A Yes, we had the U. S. Marshal from Tyler, Texas.

27 Q What was his name?

28 A Again, he was assigned to me. He is in all the

1 pictures of the magazines in the courtroom, standing beside me
2 on the witness stand.

3 I can't remember his name offhand because it has been
4 -- it would be easy to get. It was quite a few years ago, but
5 he was the one standing beside me in the courtroom. He stayed
6 with me at night.

7 Q You see, Mr. Partin, I have been given a copy of a
8 Wallstreet Journal blurb on what happened, and that is where I
9 took these names.

10 A Well, you see what you have to do is the attorneys
11 that was present is not the ones -- you had several attorneys
12 present.

13 Q Yes?

14 A Some of them was going over the transcript and some
15 of them was talking to the witnesses and some was presenting
16 the case, so don't you know anyone you can call and get that
17 fellow's name?

18 Q We can get the name, that is all right, but tell us
19 what happened.

20 A You can fill it in.

21 He would come at nighttime and write down what they
22 was going to do the next day, the government was.

23 Q Yes?

24 A And tell me what to do in regard to how to answer the
25 questions.

26 Q I see. Well now, originally, as I understand it,
27 you were in jail and they released you in order to speak to
28 Hoffa and to give this testimony, is that right?

1 A Well, they released me. Hoffa had called me and I
2 had called him back and I had went up there.

3 Frank Grimsley went up there, who was with the
4 Justice Department at the time, and we went to Chattanooga.

5 The first time we went to Nashville, of course, you
6 understand, and from Nashville to Chattanooga, and Grimsley
7 was present at both places.

8 Q He wasn't with you when you spoke to Hoffa, was he?

9 A No, no, no. He wasn't with me. We talked on the
10 phone.

11 Q I see.

12 A The first time.

13 Q And Grimsley was there when you talked on the phone
14 to Hoffa?

15 A *Also* Judge William Daniels, a judge in Baton was there
16 and recorded the conversation.

17 Q Hoffa didn't know that this was being recorded?

18 A No.

19 Q And which is that, is that the first conversation?

20 A He recorded three of them.

21 Q Three conversations?

22 A Yes.

23 Q One was while you were in Nashville?

24 A No, they was all in Baton Rouge from the Holiday Inn,
25 North.

26 Q In Baton Rouge?

27 A Yes.

28 Q Because it is getting a little confused in my mind

1 as to what happened, when is the first time that you contacted
2 Hoffa?

3 A He was on his way to Nashville.

4 Q On the way to Nashville, and where did you contact
5 him?

6 A I think he was in New Jersey. Anyway, he wasn't in
7 Nashville. He was in route to Nashville and New Jersey, one
8 of those places.

9 Q Did he call you or did you call him?

10 A I called him.

11 Q How did you know where to get him?

12 A By calling his office.

13 Q When you called him what did you say?

14 A They had written down the questions for me to ask
15 him.

16 Q By "they," who do you mean?

17 A Judge Daniels and the Justice Department official.

18 Q One of the attorneys?

19 A No, not one of the attorneys. He would have to be
20 with the Justice Department. He wasn't one of the attorneys
21 that was used in the case.

22 Q You don't remember his name?

23 A No, but Judge Daniels would.

24 Q They told you what to ask Hoffa?

25 A That is correct.

26 Q And Daniels was recording?

27 A Yes, that is correct.

28 Q While you asked him these questions?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Do you remember offhand what it was you asked him?

3 A About plastic explosives.

4 Q About plastic explosives?

5 A Yes. That encompassed some of it. About plastic
6 explosives and about when he was going to Nashville and me
7 needing to talk to him, and he gave me the dates and times he
8 was going to Nashville and what time for me to come and talk
9 to him.

10 Q And that ended the conversation or did something
11 else --

12 A No, he had two more conversations.

13 Q But that ended this one?

14 A Yes, that is correct.

15 Q Do you remember approximately about when was this;
16 do you remember?

17 A About two or three days prior to him getting into
18 Nashville.

19 Q Then this was all recorded as you said?

20 A Yes, that is correct.

21 Q Now, the next session was when, the next phone
22 call?

23 A I think it was the next morning or that night. It
24 was eight or ten hours, or twelve hours.

25 Q Where did you get him, do you remember?

26 A He was in Nashville at the Andrew Jackson Hotel at
27 that time.

28 Q And that was at Nashville and what happened? You

1 called him?

2 A Yes, that is correct.

3 Q What happened at that time? Was the Judge there at
4 this time?

5 A Yes, that is correct.

6 Q And the same F.B.I. man?

7 A They had two of them then.

8 Q Two?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You don't know either of the names?

11 A One of them was from New Orleans, I think, and the
12 other one was from Atlanta. I don't know their names.

13 Q At that time you were calling at their direction?

14 A Yes, that is correct.

15 Q And they told you what questions to ask him?

16 A Yes, that is correct.

17 Q And what questions did they tell you to ask him?

18 A In generality, they wanted to know how the case
19 looked and what he thought about it, what kind of case he
20 thought the government had. In effect, trying to find the
21 basis of his case, what he was going to use as a defense.

22 Q Then the third time you spoke to him was when?

23 A Just prior to leaving, it was recording, just prior
24 to leaving Baton Rouge.

25 Q About how long after the second one?

26 A That night or the next morning. All of this took
27 place in a period of two days before I left.

28 Q Were the same people present with you when you made

1 the call or did he make the call to you?

2 A No, I made the call. I placed the call and
3 initiated the call.

4 Q Who was present?

5 A Judge Daniels and two government officials, I think
6 the same people but Judge Daniels would have knowledge of
7 which it was.

8 Q What did they ask you to ask about at this time?

9 A The same thing, "Who are you going to use, what you
10 are going to use for your defense, who your witness will be
11 and can I help you in any way," of that sort.

12 They wanted me, in effect, to get in his camp and
13 find out what was going on.

14 Q Now, I understand that sometime or other there was
15 some mention about Hoffa having offered to give you a certain
16 amount of money to do certain things regarding the jury?

17 Is that taken up in these three conversations?

18 A No, that was discussed with Mr. Grimsley later on.

19 Q What happened at that time? Do you remember who
20 made the conversation, who called who or where it was?

21 A I had been in Mr. Hoffa's suite of rooms and I met
22 Mr. Grimsley around the corner from Andrew Jackson Hotel,
23 and they wanted to know what was going on during the course of
24 Hoffa's conference with the attorneys.

25 Q Who is Mr. Grimsley?

26 A He was a special assistant to the Attorney General
27 at that time, Frank Grimsley.

28 Q Did he tell you to do certain things?

1 A Oh, yes.

2 Q What did he tell you?

3 A Find out what you can find in the room where they are
4 holding the meetings and report back to him so they would know
5 how to carry on the case.

6 Q What else happened at that time, do you recall?

7 A Well, that was a daily habit in Nashville, that was
8 almost daily.

9 Q Every day you would go --

10 A Very seldom I wouldn't. It would be when he went
11 out of town. I would go back to Baton Rouge when he wasn't.

12 Q Did you make any recordings of these conversations or
13 did you just report them back as they happened?

14 A No, I reported them back. I think the government
15 recorded the conversation, because I remember Mr. Hoffa said
16 the room was bugged and took some things from behind the
17 pictures and things.

18 Q But you never made any recordings?

19 A No. Just daily talk to him and writing down
20 notations.

21 Q Now, were you promised anything to do this, to allow
22 them to record the conversations with Hoffa and to ask the
23 questions that you were told to ask?

24 A Well, I'll put it this way. If I hadn't have done
25 it, I was told what would happen to me if I didn't do it.

26 Q Did they tell you what would happen to you if you
27 didn't do it?

28 A You had a life sentence for kidnapping and other

1 you would go ahead and do as they would say they would do or
2 they would prosecute the case on the kidnapping charges.

3 Q Were you guilty of those charges?

4 A No.

5 Q But you still were afraid, is that it?

6 A Definitely. When you are out, without bond, and a
7 District Attorney holds you without bond, he is working with
8 the government, and appearing as a witness for the government
9 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, definitely you have got to be
10 afraid of him. You don't have anything to do but be afraid of
11 him.

12 Q Am I correct, also, during all this time they had
13 somebody with you at all times?

14 A Two and three.

15 Q Two or three people?

16 A Yes, U. S. Marshals.

17 Q Except when you went over to see Hoffa, is that
18 right? At that time they would let you go but pick you up as
19 soon as you came out?

20 A They would be observing the place but they would never
21 come inside the place. They were staying at another hotel
22 not too far from there.

23 You see, the thing that needs to be brought out is
24 the fact of the District Attorney going in and framing up
25 charges and putting the pressure on people on a capital crime,
26 which had never happened, and it finally came out it never
27 happened.

28 After the Hoffa case they forgot about it, but then

1 they continued to say they could prosecute on individual cases.
2 This they could bring against you if you didn't stay in line,
3 in other words. They put, as well as you know -- they had
4 everything sewed up. They had the Attorney General. They
5 had the President. They had the District Attorney where I
6 lived, so I don't think you can get any more stronger than
7 that as far as having to do what they said to do.

8 Q In other words, are you telling me you were afraid
9 of your life if you didn't do what they told you to do?

10 A Definitely, because you have got too many powerful
11 people there.

12 Q And in your testimony about Mr. Hoffa offering you
13 a sum of money, you had to do that in order -- because they
14 told you to do that, is that right?

15 A You do it or else. When they hold you with a
16 capital crime above your head and tell you they won't
17 prosecute it if you do it, and they will if you don't.

18 In fact, the entire testimony at the time, they
19 would coach you so well that you would think at that time that
20 they would have you believing it was the truth, but then when
21 the hearing started on the trial, and I read the testimony,
22 I realized it wasn't the truth.

23 Q In other words, Hoffa never did offer you that
24 money, is that correct?

25 A No, and I found out later it wasn't intentional or
26 purpose on my part.

27 When I found out how they coached it and put it in
28 words and had it set in front of the jury, I realized it wasn't

1 the facts at the time.

2 Q But there was nothing you could do about it?

3 A ✓ Nothing you could do. You couldn't go tell them
4 it wasn't true. How could you go tell them?

5 Q Did you mention to them that, "Look, I didn't say
6 this" and they said that you had to say that, and you had said
7 it and you had to go out, or just how did it come about?

8 A ✓ At one time when I mentioned the fact -- well now,
9 he didn't mention money going to the witnesses but he mentioned
10 what it was costing him in court.

11 ✓ They said, "You misunderstood him. He was talking
12 about potential witnesses in the case and potential jury
13 people that was on the jury."

14 Q In other words, when Hoffa was talking about ten,
15 fifteen, twenty thousand, that is what he said it cost him to
16 defend the case, is that what you are saying?

17 A He was talking about monthly and weekly attorneys
18 but they would say, "No, that wasn't what he meant. ✓ He was
19 talking about potential jury people, because we had someone
20 following him and we know who they are."

21 So you don't just get up and discuss them when you
22 have got the District Attorney sitting in one room and the
23 prosecuting local District Attorney. You have got the
24 attorneys calling the U. S. Attorney every day, ✓ I mean the
25 Attorney General of the United States every day, and telling
26 the progress of the case.

27 So you just -- well, maybe that is the way it was,
28 so they said, "That is what you say."

1 Q In other words, this was a big mistake on your part
2 and you tried to tell them but they wouldn't listen to you?

3 A They said they was the only ones who could prosecute
4 you, they was the only ones that could do anything to you about
5 it; that the judge was favorable.

6 So they said, "Let it go like it is and don't say
7 anything about it." They said, "Don't tell Mr. Hoffa that it
8 wasn't the fact," the gentleman from Detroit.

9 Q I see.

10 A These are a matter of record in the courtroom. He
11 is on the transcript. He was the one that stayed with the
12 witnesses and all the talking to them.

13 Q So you didn't tell him, is that right?

14 A No.

15 Q But you did tell the F.B.I. man? Who did you tell?

16 A Well, this person, Grimsley was a special attorney,
17 assistant to the Attorney General. I assume he was under the
18 direction of the F.B.I.

19 Q He is one of the persons you told?

20 A Yes, because he stayed close to us. He and this
21 other attorney stayed in the room most of the time, the big
22 heavy-set attorney from Detroit, and Judge Daniels was present
23 a lot.

24 Q Judge Daniels?

25 A Yes.

26 Q Was Judge Daniels ever present when you said, "Well,
27 that isn't the way it was. That isn't what I meant to say"?

28 A Judge Daniels told me no longer than two weeks ago

1 he knew they had twisted the facts around in the case and he
2 tried to get a hold to Hoffa, Jr. to get it corrected but he
3 couldn't reach him. He tried himself several weeks ago and
4 also --

5 Q You mean several weeks ago from today?

6 A Yes, and also several months ago he tried to contact
7 people to get it corrected. He couldn't get anything done.

8 He said Sergeant Pitcher had blocked him and in fact
9 he quit the District Attorney's office after that trial because
10 of what was done in Chattanooga.

11 He was the chief prosecutor for the District Attorney's
12 office there. ~~He~~ He was the one, along with Sergeant Pitcher
13 that took me about 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning and
14 Frank Grimsley, and the room at the courthouse when I was under
15 this no bond at the time and told me what could happen if I
16 didn't go along with them.

17 Q Who was he again? He was with Grimsley?

18 A Grimsley was special assistant.

19 Q Who was with Grimsley that took you?

20 A Judge Daniels, an F.B.I. agent or Justice Department
21 agent besides Grimsley, I don't know his name. I will know
22 him when I see him, and Sergeant Pitcher.

23 Q And they all took you into this room?

24 A Yes.

25 Q ~~And~~ they told you --

26 A ~~They~~ They told me what they had to have and what they
27 wanted to do and what position I was in if I didn't do it,
28 what position I was in.

1 Q What did they say would happen to you if you didn't
2 do it?

3 A I couldn't get out on bond unless I went along with
4 them, at all. I couldn't even get out.

5 Q And they would go ahead and do what?

6 A Reduce the bond after I agreed to go along with them.

7 Q Then what would they do if you didn't go along?

8 A I would be prosecuted.

9 Q Did they say anything about fairly or unfairly?

10 A I wasn't indicted fairly, so just automatically
11 when you got a person that frames you up on an indictment to
12 get the results, you are going to get prosecuted.

13 Q Getting back to the very beginning, before you first
14 called and made any one of these calls to Hoffa, you were in
15 jail, weren't you?

16 A Yes, that is correct.

17 Q Now, who came to jail and spoke to you on behalf of
18 the government?

19 A Frank Grimsley and an F.B.I. agent that was with
20 him. I don't know the F.B.I. agent's name.

21 Q What did they tell you at that time?

22 A About the fact they could get the bond reduced.
23 Judge Daniels was present at the time. Get the bond reduced
24 and turn me loose, but they wanted me to make some calls to
25 Hoffa and they wanted to tape the calls and they wanted me
26 to go up and get in his camp in Nashville in the original
27 beginning of it, in Nashville, Tennessee.

28 Q That is why they let you out of jail?

1 A That is correct.

2 Q Did they tell you what would happen to you while you
3 were in jail there if you didn't go along with what they
4 wanted you to do?

5 A Yes. It was a capital charge. It is a chance of
6 the electric chair on a phony charge is what they said.

7 Q Did they say that they would see that you were
8 prosecuted?

9 A They had me there locked up. There was no seeing to
10 it. They had me locked up and had the court arraignment set.

11 So there was no doubt about what they was doing.
12 Reduced bond and they reduced the bond down to 5,000. I had
13 no bond at all.

14 Q Did they put up the bond for you or who put up the
15 bond?

16 A I don't know who put up the bond.

17 Q You didn't put it up?

18 A No.

19 Q When you got out of the jail, until after the trial,
20 was there someone with you from the F.B.I. office all the
21 time?

22 A Up until approximately 18 months ago.

23 Q In other words, long after the trial?

24 A Long after the trial.

25 Q There was always an F.B.I. man with you?

26 A Federal Marshals. Every call you made they sat
27 there, and where you went they was with you.

28 I didn't want them there. I didn't want them around

1 no but still what are you going to do? You couldn't tell them.

2 Q The main thing is before the trial they wouldn't
3 let you go anyplace, talk to an attorney or anything until the
4 trial, is that correct?

5 A They had four assigned to me.

6 Q Four assigned to you?

7 A Yes.

8 Q But would they let you talk to your attorney?

9 A I couldn't talk to anyone.

10 Q You couldn't talk to anyone?

11 A No.

12 Q Except them?

13 A Because they would make arrangements. They would
14 get on the phone every day and call in and make out a daily
15 report that was mailed in.

16 Q But could you have gone up to your attorney's office
17 if you wanted to?

18 A I wouldn't have dared try it because I would be put
19 back in the jailhouse.

20 A lot of the stuff I can't remember offhand because
21 it has been seven years or eight years ago.

22 If I had a transcript to look at, it would bring it
23 back into focus in my memory, because I would have recalled
24 then what was said and the questions and answers and so forth,
25 because I think I never -- you realize it is hard for someone
26 seven years exactly what happened.

27 All you can remember is the highlights and the fear
28 that was put into you by people.

1 Q But the things you have just told us is all true?

2 A Yes, they stand out in my mind.

3 Q And I have not promised you anything?

4 A I never saw you before in my life until I walked in
5 here.

6 The best example I can give you, if you will get the
7 Life magazine story of my life, you'll find everywhere I was
8 at they had U.S. Marshals in the pictures of it. Even where
9 I took my children, I had them.

10 I am saying to you and I am saying to the court
11 reporter that I was in fear of my life because of the fact
12 you had Marshals every step of the way you went.

13 You have all these rumors about the CIA having
14 people assassinated and killed, whether it was true or wasn't
15 true.

16 Evidently there was foundation for it because
17 Garrison came out later and accused them of killing the
18 President of the United States, the CIA, which is a division
19 of the Justice Department, and I might add that one night
20 when the records was burnt up from the daily testimony, the
21 U. S. Marshal gave me the matches to burn the paper with.

22 Q Let's hear that again?

23 A The U. S. Marshal gave me the matches to burn the
24 paper with that this attorney had written up for me to study,
25 to testify from.

26 Q In other words, they gave you each night --

27 A Most every night, very few nights this attorney
28 didn't come by and give me the stuff they were going to use the

1 next day, and it seemed to me as they knew what Hoffa was
2 going to do, because the questions that would be given, would
3 be to counteract what they put on the next day, and they would
4 fit in perfectly.

5 Q In other words, they gave you the questions and they
6 gave you the answers that they wanted you to give? -

7 A - They would say, "You'll probably be asked this and
8 you will say this is what really happened here."

9 Q Did they tell you what to answer?

10 A They would write it down.

11 Q They would write down what your answer should be?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And then told you to study it?

14 A Yes. I have it all night to study it.

15 Q Then to burn it the next day?

16 A Yes, we would burn it the next night, day. I
17 usually had the next day, we had a recess. I could look at it,
18 but that night I would burn it, what I had the night before.

19 The way you can tie this down is the fact we were
20 staying out by a lake north of Chattanooga, west of Chattanooga
21 -- I take it back.

22 We went out on the road. The Marshal and I stopped
23 the car at nighttime, I would say about 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock,
24 and got out and took the paper and tore it all to pieces and
25 then set a match to it while he gave me the match and guard
26 it while I burned it.

27 A Marshal from Tyler, Texas was assigned to the case.

28 Q Did they make sure that you burned it each night?

1 A Oh, yes. They would get it from me or I would burn
2 it. They wanted to know what happened to it.

3 Q Let me repeat it and correct me. I'll pause after
4 each sentence, correct me if I'm wrong in my previous sentence,
5 because I think I understand now what you have said.

6 In regard to the testimony given by you at Hoffa's
7 trial about Hoffa saying something to you about money in terms
8 of 10,000, 15,000, 20,000, something like that, in that regard,
9 what you have told the Marshal or those people that you
10 mentioned earlier whose names I have forgotten, what you told
11 them was that Hoffa had discussed sums like this with regard
12 to how much it was costing him each day or week.

13 A I told them my opinion was he was talking about the
14 cost of his court. They said, "No, we have the evidence he
15 is talking about bribing the jury witness or bribing the jury
16 man."

17 Q And they told you to say that he asked you to give
18 that amount of money to a jury man or jury men?

19 A It was a jury woman in this case.

20 Q A jury woman?

21 A Yes.

22 Q To --

23 A To vote for acquittal.

24 Q To vote for his acquittal?

25 A ~~To~~ And when I would say he didn't say that and they
26 would say that is what is meant by that and that is what you
27 are supposed to say.

28 Q Then they repeated that so often --

1 A You would think yourself that it was true, but then
2 when the trial was over and I got to looking at it and listening
3 to it on the radio and television and watching the thing and
4 thinking about it, when I got to where I could reach to go to
5 the bathroom without a Federal Marshal with me, and I got to
6 thinking about it, and I keep asking why do they have a Federal
7 Marshal, because I wasn't scared any more, and they kept him
8 constantly, and they would run them in teams. They would
9 stay two weeks at a time and come back two weeks at a time,
10 and I knew then there had to be something wrong or they
11 wouldn't be guarding me.

12 They wanted me to stay away from an attorney, wanted
13 me to stay away from my attorney and wanted me to stay away
14 from talking to people.

15 Q When did you start realizing that really you had
16 done something harmful to Hoffa in saying this?

17 A Well, when I kept watching them make out these
18 reports and things, how we went and where we went and they
19 would be sent into the Justice Department daily, and if I got
20 ready to go to see my children, there they would be, right
21 there, right behind me in the car, in front of me and behind
22 me.

23 If I went to make a call, they would stay right
24 beside me, and I figured to myself, ~~if~~ God, there must be
25 something they are trying to hide or they wouldn't be watching
26 me like this, so I got to reading what was in the paper, and
27 the statement was made and what they said was made wasn't
28 exactly what I thought it should have been.

1 So the more I saw of that, the more that came to me.
2 I got to realizing what the farce of the whole thing was, and
3 as soon as the Marshals got away from me, I attempted to do
4 something about it.

5 Q What did you attempt to do?

6 A I called Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. for one thing.

7 Q Did you get him?

8 A Yes, and he was supposed to send someone down to
9 talk to me. And an attorney called, Ossie Brown talked to me
10 briefly and said he had been hired by him to do something.

11 Q By him, meaning Hoffa?

12 A Yes, to get the truth of what went on in the trial
13 in Chattanooga.

14 Q Yes?

15 A And then he brought in Frank Regano who was an
16 attorney, and they was all trying to get the facts on the case,
17 so they could present it on these appeals and things, and when-
18 ever they would hear that you were talking to anyone concerning
19 the Hoffa case, you would get a call from the District
20 Attorney wanting to know how everything was going, or you would
21 get a call from someone and, in effect, where you were just
22 scared to talk to anybody at all, and the best example I can
23 give you, Mr. Dalton Smith.

24 Q That is this gentleman here?

25 A Yes, that is right, was indicted on evidence of a
26 winehead, the only witness in front of the Grand Jury that
27 indicted Mr. Smith for attempting to bribe me, to change my
28 testimony in the Hoffa trial.

1 He was found not guilty, but every time he would
2 attempt to get the thing together and try to get Hoffa to keep
3 him from going to jail, so they indicted him on a phony charge.

4 He was tried and acquitted for it. But just those
5 kind of things kept you from coming out with the stuff, because
6 they watched you every step you made.

7 Q In other words, you were afraid and you still are
8 afraid that they --

9 A Definitely.

10 Q -- that they would cause you to be imprisoned if you
11 every told anybody about it?

12 A I think they will try it now. I don't think there is
13 any doubt they will try it right now because they still have
14 enough other people left in the different departments of the
15 Justice Department that they could do it.

16 Q When you said they reported to the Attorney General
17 daily, who was the Attorney General at that time?

18 A At that time Robert F. Kennedy.

19 Q Who is Herbert J. Miller?

20 A He was over the criminal division of the Justice
21 Department.

22 Q He was chief --

23 A He was head of the criminal division of it.

24 Q Chief of the Justice Department, Criminal Division?

25 A You see, he went into private practice now, so you'll
26 understand, he left the Department of Justice and went into
27 private practice.

28 Q Did he act as your attorney at any time?

1 A He has since then, yes. The firm is Miller, Cassidy,
2 LaRoca and Downing. I think that is the full name.

3 Q Downing?

4 A Downing.

5 Q He acted as your attorney? He is your attorney now?

6 A They do work for me. I haven't paid them anything
7 but they do work for me now.

8 Q Why do they do work for you if you haven't paid
9 them?

10 A Well, I would assume, have to assume, and I think it
11 is a fair assumption, it is because of the Hoffa case.

12 Q Were you ever promised that they would do work
13 for you?

14 A You didn't have to promise. You just automatically
15 did it.

16 The best example I can give you, do you do work free?

17 Q No, not generally.

18 A Okay. You would have a reason if you did, wouldn't
19 you?

20 Q Yes, that is right. Did you receive any kind of
21 written agreement from anybody in the government to do what
22 you did, or was everything oral?

23 A Everything was verbal and oral.

24 Q You had received no written agreements from them?

25 A No.

26 Q Really what you received was threats?

27 A Well, that is what I said at the start of this. It
28 was more or less threats instead of a fair trial. You was

1 threatened.

2 Q Who is Mr. Sheridan?

3 A He was assistant, as I understand now, and he is not
4 an attorney, he was assistant to the Attorney General and I
5 would assume a special assistant, the same as Mr. Grimsley was.

6 Q As I recall in the article it says he was chief of
7 the team who investigated Hoffa.

8 A I don't know the details of what he was. All I
9 know he was pretty high in as far as the Justice Department.

10 Q Did you ever run across him?

11 A Yes, he was at both places, Chattanooga and
12 Nashville.

13 Q When you made your phone calls?

14 A No, he wasn't there, no. That was made in Baton
15 Rouge.

16 Q At the trial?

17 A He was in Nashville and Chattanooga.

18 Q Well --

19 A With Grimsley.

20 Q With Grimsley?

21 A Yes. You see, they had, I would guess, six, eight
22 or ten at both places besides the Marshal and so forth, and I
23 do want to point out that Judge Daniels told me that Edward
24 Bennett Williams was bringing information back from Hoffa's
25 place or camp, whatever you want to call it, to the U. S.
26 Attorneys and Kennedy.

27 They played touch football on Sundays, and this
28 information passed back and forth. Judge Daniels said he was

1 present when this happened several times.

2 Q How did he get this information?

3 A He was with them.

4 Q With who?

5 A He was with them when they was playing touch football.

6 Q With Kennedy? With who was he?

7 A The U. S. Attorneys, Mr. Edward Bennett Williams,
8 Sheridan, that whole group from the Justice Department. They
9 played touch football every Sunday, and when Bennett Williams
10 would be there playing touch football and so forth with them,
11 Judge Daniels said he would pass information to them that came
12 out of the Hoffa camp.

13 That is something I'm sure he would give an
14 affidavit to.

15 He also tried to get a hold of the attorneys for
16 Hoffa to give them this information.

17 My personal opinion in looking back at the record
18 in the past, I think Mr. Hoffa has been wronged and should be
19 righted. I think he should be relieved of the stigma over
20 him on account of the case, myself, and as I was called one of
21 the chief witnesses, that is my honest belief on it.

22 I think he has been wronged as anyone could be
23 wronged, and I made this statement and you might -- if it
24 ever needs to be checked, to a news media in Baton Rouge, a
25 few days or several days after the conviction. I thought he
26 shouldn't be convicted, and it is a matter of record in the
27 public libraries of the newspapers and the television stations.

28 Q But you did not recant your testimony at that time?

1 A You couldn't.

2 Q Why couldn't you?

3 A Who was you going to talk to?

4 Q Would something happen to you if you talked to
5 somebody?

6 A I was never subpoenaed by Hoffa's people here at all
7 to change my testimony or asked did I tell the truth.

8 I have never been subpoenaed in front of any court
9 to do that.

10 Q But you did not tell the truth because, as I understand
11 it, they had threatened you and practically gotten you to
12 believe that the statements you said were made were true?

13 A That is correct, sir, but I do want to point out
14 again on the record that I was never called by anyone in front
15 of a court of law to give these statements here, or I would
16 have given them if I would have been given protection from
17 those people.

18 Q By "these people" you mean who?

19 A From the people that was prosecuting Hoffa or trying
20 to keep him in jail.

21 Q Who are these people?

22 A I am assuming it has to be a mingling of company
23 people, Kennedy people and the whole Kennedy faction, whether
24 it was Kennedy people or not. You just don't know where they
25 are all at.

26 The best example I can give is Clark Hallenhoff.
27 He was a reporter. He was in the Nixon administration as a
28 special assistant to one of the top Kennedy people.

1 So how do you say anything when you know they have
2 got one of the top Kennedy people over there in the administration?

3 Q Also, am I correct in saying it was the F.B.I. that
4 you were afraid of?

5 A Why, certainly, because as I understand it, the head
6 of the secret service is a close friend of the Kennedys, a
7 close personal friend, so how would you go from the Justice
8 Department with anything, knowing that Clark Mullenhoff was
9 in the White House?

10 I have a book personally autographed from him to me
11 with Sergeant Pitcher's picture in it, Judge Daniels' picture
12 in it and myself in it and the Kennedy team in this book that
13 he wrote and published, and then you find him sitting in the
14 White House, so I mean you still figure they have control of
15 the Justice Department or the F.B.I. or both, and I assume
16 they both come under one another.

17 The F.B.I. I assume is the one that did all the
18 investigation work because they are the one that kept the
19 pressure on me, frankly, from the day the trial was over until
20 now, even up until today. They kept the pressure on me.

21 Q You say from the day the trial was over. Was there
22 pressure on you before the trial was over?

23 A The entire time but I'm talking about surveillance,
24 the fear, the intimidation.

25 Q I just wanted to correct -- to be sure I understand
26 correctly.

27 A I'm talking about the inception of it. When the trial
28 was over, the fear and intimidation and threats from the F.B.I.

1 Q They were still on you?

2 A Certainly.

3 Q That is why --

4 A They kept the pressure constantly.

5 Q That is why you didn't come forward before today?

6 A Well, you wouldn't know who to come forward to
7 because you would have a mingling of all the people that was
8 there, that is still there.

9 MR. KRAMER: For the record, put down there was present
10 Patrick Willis and J. M. Walters.

11 Where do you live, Mr. Walters?

12 MR. WALTERS: Baton Rouge.

13 MR. KRAMER: You came here together with Mr. Partin?

14 MR. WALTERS: That is correct.

15 MR. PARTIN: I want to put on the record if I was ever
16 given a copy of the transcript, there would be a lot more
17 details that I can remember by reading it and refreshing my
18 memory after seven or eight years.

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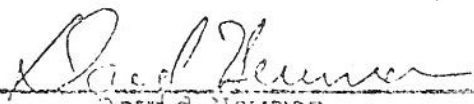
EDWARD GRADY PARTIN

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS.

3
4 I, David Newman, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, hereby
5 certify:

6
7 That EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, the witness named in the
8 foregoing statement, personally appeared before me at the hour
9 of 7:05 o'clock p.m., on Saturday, March 27, 1971, at
10 13044 Hartscock Street, Sherman Oaks, California; that said
11 statement was by me then and there written down in Stenotype
12 writing and was thereafter transcribed into typewriting under
13 my personal direction and supervision, and that the foregoing
14 31 pages of typewritten matter comprise a full, true and
15 correct transcript of said statement.

16 I further certify that I am in no wise interested in the
17 event of said matter.

18
19
20 
21 David Newman
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
23
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