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THE STATES-ITEM

Harassed by Partin, First Witness Says

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — The first of six government witnesses in the conspiracy trial of Edward Grady Partin has been excused, after testifying that the 46-year-old Teamsters Union official attempted to coerce a Baton Rouge, La., concrete producer.

Partin, a balding business agent for Local No. 5 of the Teamsters in Baton Rouge, is on trial here on four counts of criminal conspiracy in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. Partin was a key witness in the successful case against Teamsters Boss James Hoffa.

Roland Stevens, the only witness during the so far two day trial of Partin, testified yesterday that his Concrete Pipe and Products Co. had been harassed before and during Teamster contract negotiations in 1966 and in early 1967.

STEVENS SAID the union local drummed up charges of underpayment to Stevens' employes over a period of years and demanded immediate reimbursement. He said that was in late 1966.

Stevens further testified that the Teamsters formed a habit of picketing his firm after a day's work had started and concrete had been partially poured.

He also said that when he made a counter offer to Teamster demands in contract negotiations, Partin led

him to believe the offer would be considered, then suddenly ordered the Stevens plant struck because the union had rejected the offer.

STEVENS WAS the first of six witnesses in an attempt by the government to show that Partin conspired with Red F. Dunham Jr., another concrete producer in the Baton Rouge area, to retain the concrete trade in Baton Rouge in favor of Dunham.

At one point, Stevens testified that Dunham had outlined rules under which Stevens could operate in the city. He said Dunham told him: "These are the conditions you can survive under, or you won't be here."

In the dispute over the alleged back pay due his employes, Stevens said some errors were found in favor of workers, some favoring the employes. But eventually, he said, "we paid them all off just to get them back to work."

THE DEFENSE countered with an attempt to get Stevens to admit he had been close to indictment on antitrust charges in connection with the Greater Baton Rouge Ready Mix Concrete Association.

Stevens said he was not sure whether he had been offered immunity from prosecution for his testimony in the event of any indictment of the association or any of its members.

Partin Trial Is Under Way In Montana

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — Edward Grady Partin, a key figure in the conviction of Teamster Union boss James R. Hoffa, went on trial here today, charged with four counts of criminal conspiracy in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Partin is accused of attempting to monopolize the cement industry and related fields in Baton Rouge by obstructing building projects.

The trial was moved to Butte after a change of venue was granted from New Orleans, where a federal grand jury had indicted Partin in June of 1969.

U.S. Judge W. D. Murray is presiding over the trial which observers say will take about five weeks. Murray is substituting for U.S. District Judge E. Gordon West of Baton Rouge. West excused himself in another case against Partin.

The 1963 charges, involving 26 counts of embezzlement and falsifying union records, have never been prosecuted.

Partin was one of the chief figures in a 1967 probe by a Louisiana labor-management commission of industrial construction in the Baton Rouge area.

FBI records show Partin has been convicted of burglary.