

23 June 71

Partin Trial Witnesses Are Awaited

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — The government, for the second day in a row, ran out of witnesses in its prosecution of Edward Grady Partin and had to send to Louisiana for more.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge W. D. Murray recessed the trial and ordered it reconvened today when government lawyers said they needed time for several of its witnesses to arrive here from Louisiana.

Four witnesses yesterday made few allusions in their testimony to Partin, charged with conspiracy in restraint of trade by using extortion in his activities as a Teamster Union-business agent in Baton Rouge, La., in the 1966-1969 period.

MUCH MORE was heard of the relationships of concrete readymix suppliers in the Baton Rouge area and of alleged attempts by Ted F. Dunham Jr., owner of several concrete companies, to limit or eliminate his competition with Partin as an alleged co-conspirator.

The government continued hammering away on the point that Louisiana Ready-Mix, owned by Dunham, consistently out-maneuvered other companies in winning construction contracts.

Dunham already has been convicted of two of five counts similar to these on which Partin stands indicted.

SOME TESTIMONY on alleged Dunham tactics came from Raymond A. Page, purchasing agent for Uniroyal, Inc., which in mid-1967 was constructing the Cellogen O-G Plant in the Baton Rouge area and required 2,400 cubic yards of mixed concrete.

Bidders, Page testified, were Dunham at \$16.75 per yard; Altex, Inc., of Baton Rouge at \$16.25, and Dolese, Inc., of Baton Rouge, also at \$16.25. The contract was awarded to Dolese.

Page said a local strike shut off sand and gravel supplies and Dolese was unable to pour concrete. To keep the job going, Page said, the contractor was forced to order ready-mix from Dunham, who had plenty of sand and gravel at the time.

PAGE SAID he was visited by Benny Nobles, representing Dunham, and that Nobles suggested Uniroyal abandon the Dolese contract and do business exclusively with Dunham.

Page testified he could not "lower my integrity" to that level and later cancelled the "spot orders" which Dunham had been getting.

Eventually, Page said, Dolese obtained sand and gravel and fulfilled its contract.