

Union 'Payoffs' Described at Partin Trial

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — Government witnesses in the Edward Grady Partin trial here yesterday testified about alleged payoffs to the Teamsters Union official and of an attack with guns, chains and sticks on construction workers at a Louisiana job site.

One witness, Billy Reed Rogers, identified himself as a salesman and confidential employe of Ted F. Dunham, a Baton Rouge, La., concrete producer. He said he carried a \$22,000 payoff to Partin in December 1967, and was present at a meeting in Baton Rouge when Partin allegedly demanded another payment of \$25,000 from Dunham.

Another witness, Paul Dupree, a construction laborer, said the attack came after a shipment of concrete pipe was delivered to a job site in Plaquemine, La., by a competitor of convicted conspirator Dunham, who the government is trying to link with Partin in this Butte trial.

ROGERS described himself as a "thief working for thieves," and admitted he had been convicted of forgery. Under cross-examination he said he had received psychiatric treatment within the past two years at a Veterans Administration hospital.

In the period covered by Rogers' testimony, Partin was business agent for Teamsters Union Local 5 of Baton Rouge.

About the \$22,000 transaction, Rogers said Dunham gave him the money before handing it to Partin in the Belmont Motor Hotel in Baton Rouge.

AT ANOTHER meeting in the hotel, Rogers said, Partin reminded Dunham that the latter owed Partin 50 cents a yard on concrete poured by Dunham during the previous month, amounting to 50,000 cubic yards. The witness said Dunham assured Partin the money would be paid.

Others at the meeting, Rogers testified, were Billy Day, a Dunham employe and Baton Rouge city-parish councilman; Sid Lacey, a Dunham em-

ploye, and two U.S. marshals.

Rogers did not describe the function of the marshals at the meeting, although he testified in connection with another meeting that the marshals sat at a table some distance from the others.

AT THAT time, Partin was constantly guarded by marshals because he had given testimony which helped convict ex-Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa of jury tampering in a Tennessee trial.

According to Rogers and Dupree, on Jan. 18, 1968, violence occurred at the Plaquemine site because a contractor had purchased concrete for a subdivision job from another concrete producer.

"I want them taken care of and I want them taken care of right now," Dunham said, according to Rogers' testimony.

PICKETS showed up at the construction site immediately after the pipe was delivered, Dupree said, and then, about noon the next day several men arrived at the job site with assorted weapons.

"They attacked our work crew with guns, chains and sticks," he testified.

Dupree said guns were fired and the contractor on the job, W. O. Bergeron, and his brother — as well as Dupree and another worker — were wounded. He said he was hit by four small pellets in the right leg.