

Partin Trial Resumption Is Postponed

BUTTE, Mont. (AP)—The absence of the chief prosecutor today delayed resumption of the Edward Grady Partin conspiracy-antitrust trial until Wednesday.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge W. D. Murray said today the trial will reconvene Wednesday with the defense expected to begin presenting evidence in the trial of the Baton Rouge Teamsters Union boss.

Murray said chief prosecutor Wilford Whitley Jr. had to be out of state today to make business arrangements after the death of his father. Whitley left for North Carolina Thursday evening.

Partin is charged with four counts of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act. The concrete producer, Ted F. Dunham Jr., was convicted of two counts of conspiring earlier this year.

PARTIN'S charges stem from alleged activities in the ready-mix concrete business from 1966-69 in the Baton Rouge area. The trial was moved to federal court in Butte following a change of venue.

After two weeks of testimony, the government presented its last witness Friday, but did not rest its case. Prosecutor Wilfred J. Whitley was absent, attending his father's funeral in North Carolina.

The government's case relied heavily on testimony of a Louisiana convict who testified that Partin ordered violence on several occasions.

The witness, Wade McClanahan, a burly 250-pound, 6-foot-4, "strong-arm," talked of destroying contractors' property with bombs and a sub-machinegun, of paying cement truck drivers to put syrup into their gas tanks and other destructive acts. He testified he was following Partin's orders.

"IF HE (Partin) wanted someone whipped up on, I was the man to do it," said McClanahan.

One such man was W. O. Bergeron, the government's last witness, who testified briefly, telling the three-man, nine-woman jury he was shot in the back by a shotgun wielded by McClanahan.

McClanahan is serving two years in prison for "aggravated assault" connected with the shooting of Bergeron.

A distant relative of McClanahan's, Barnes A. Samuel of Baton Rouge, testified he was forced by threats of death to himself and his family to make false sworn statements in connection with labor trouble around Baton Rouge.