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Firm Took Loss, Partin Jury Told

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — The jury in labor leader Edward Partin's trial was told today that a construction company took a financial loss on a project rather than risk trouble with Teamsters.

Henry C. Sherman of Louisville, Ky., said his company, C&I Girdler Inc., incurred the loss when labor conditions forced it to use a cement company he felt had "friendly relations" with Partin on a Gulf Oil Corp. project in Louisiana in 1967.

Sherman, project manager for the corporation, said the company's prices for supplying cement were \$14,000 higher than the price quoted by another concrete producer who had a history of trouble with Partin's union.

PARTIN, 46, business agent for Teamsters Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge, is being tried for the second time on three counts of conspiring to violate antitrust laws and two counts of extortion.

Sherman spent most of his time on the stand authenticating memoranda he prepared detailing the problems he encountered in obtaining a cement contractor for the Gulf job. The memoranda, along with Sherman's letters to Gulf, were introduced as evidence by the government.

All of the documents emphasized that Sherman felt the only way to preserve labor harmony on the job was to do business with a cement company linked by the government with Partin.

The letters were written to Jack Burk of Media, Pa., who

was project manager for the Donaldsonville, La., plant. Burk testified Monday that the fear of labor trouble heavily influenced the awarding of contracts.

PARTIN, 46, business agent for Teamsters Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge, is being tried for the second time on three counts of conspiring to violate antitrust laws and two counts of extortion. His first trial ended in a mistrial.

Partin, a husky former truck driver who testified for the government in Jimmy Hoffa's jury tampering trial, is accused of helping Baton Rouge businessman Ted Dunham Jr. gain a monopoly over the area's concrete industry through labor trouble and other means.

"The common feeling in the area," testified Burk, "at least as I read it, was Mr. Partin and Mr. Dunham had a friendly relationship and there was less possibility of labor problems if Mr. Dunham was supplying the concrete rather than Altex."

ALTEX Ready-Mix Concrete Co. was one of Dunham's main competitors. Its owners complained to the Justice Department that Dunham and Partin were trying to put Altex out of business by creating labor trouble that would frighten away prospective business.

Dunham was convicted last year of conspiracy to violate antitrust laws and was sentenced to one year in jail and \$160,000 in fines. He is free on bond, pending appeal.