

of 2001100 10 Feb 72

Kickback to Partin Claimed by Witness

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — A government witness testified today in the conspiracy and extortion trial of teamster boss Edward Partin that he once carried \$20,000 in kickback money from a Baton Rouge, La. businessman to the labor leader.

Billy R. Rogers testified that he made the payoff late in 1967 at a Baton Rouge motel.

Rogers, who is being held in protective custody by federal marshals, testified that the payoff was made by Baton Rouge cement producer Ted F. Dunham Jr.

"I WAS called into his office and Mr. Dunham gave me an envelope to deliver to Mr. Partin," testified Rogers, a former Dunham employe. "I carried the envelope to the Belmont Motor Hotel."

"Prior to delivery, I had taken and counted the money. To the best of my knowledge, it was \$20,000."

A few days earlier, testified Rogers, he had been at a meeting where Partin asked Dunham how much concrete he had poured that month.

"Mr. Dunham said 20,000 yards," said Rogers. "He—Mr. Partin—wanted his money and it was computed at 50 cents per yard and Mr. Dunham said he would give him his check."

The government contends that Dunham gave Partin a kickback in exchange for harassing competitors with labor trouble that might put them out of operation on big construction jobs.

Rogers testified yesterday that Partin was present at a meeting when Dunham asked the witness to sabotage a rival cement pipe plant.

"I SAID that I couldn't do it," testified Rogers, a thin man with long sideburns, that Partin and Dunham were among several men at the

meeting where he contended the sabotage proposal was made.

ALSO AT the meeting, testified Rogers, were Ray Burgess, public works director for East Baton Rouge Parish, and Billy Day, a Dunham employe later elected to the city-parish council.