

## Jury Deliberations <sup>29 Feb 72</sup> Begin in Partin Trial

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — The conspiracy and extortion case of Baton Rouge Teamster boss Edward Grady Partin went to the jury today.

The jury of eight men and four women began deliberations at 1:20 p.m. (CST), after U.S. District Court Judge James Battin delivered 90 minutes of instructions on the law.

Partin, a husky six-footer in a black business suit, sat leafing through a sheaf of papers with his lawyer as the judge delivered the jury charge.

His wife and two of their 11 children were in the courtroom.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of 23 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$160,000.

Partin's first trial on the charges ended in mistrial last summer.

The 46-year-old defendant is accused of using his position as business agent of Teamsters Local No. 5 in Baton Rouge to help a wealthy businessman gain a monopoly over the cement business in the Louisiana capital.

PARTIN, charges the government, received kickbacks for harassing the businessman's competitors with labor trouble and subjecting uncooperative contractors to strong-arm tactics and sabotage.

The government charged in its closing argument yesterday that Partin and cement producer Ted F. Dunham Jr., formed a "partnership in crime" to carry out the alleged scheme. Dunham was convicted last year.

Government lawyer Wilford Whitley Jr. reminded the jury of the pictures it had seen of a sabotaged shipment of concrete pipe and the shotgun wounds in the back of W. O. Bergeron, the owner of a Plaquemine, La., construction firm.

Wade McClanahan, a key government witness, testified that Partin ordered him to break up the pipe and shut down Bergeron's construction project because he was using cement supplied by a Dunham rival.

"YOU KNOW people don't go around shooting people in the back," said Whitley. "But no woodpecker broke up that pipe and no mosquito did that to Mr. Bergeron's back."

James Carriere of New Orleans, another government lawyer, said that Dunham was free to fix prices and undercut his rivals because "he is holding the hammer—he's got a stranglehold on the other companies." The hammer, he said, was Partin.

Defense lawyer James Neal of Nashville attacked the gov-

ernment for calling McClanahan and Billy Rogers of Jackson, Miss., as its key witnesses.

M'CLANAHAN, he said, has "perjured himself all over the country." "He'll say with a straight face that I lied a year ago but I'm telling the truth today," said the lawyer.

He described Rogers as a "sick man" because he had been treated at a Veterans Administration hospital in Texas for schizophrenia and was subject to "auditory hallucinations." The witness testified that he took kickbacks to Partin from Dunham.

"I say shame on the government for bringing a sick boy in here and putting him on the spot and not telling the jury he was sick," said Neal.