Hoffa Contests Wiretap Used In Conviction

CHICAGO (AP)—James Hoffa, Teamsters Union president, serving a prison sentence, appeared today in U.S. District Court for a hearing to determine if wiretap evidence was used illegally to convict him.

He was convicted in Chicago of mail fraud and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Hoffa now is serving an eightyear sentence in the Lewisburg, Pa., federal prison on a conviction for jury tampering in another trial,

Charles Bolz, a special agent in charge of the FBI's accounting and fraud section in Washington, testified there had been surveillances of Hoffa but said records do not indicate how many or where.

Hoffa's attorneys contend he was illegally convicted because he was not shown wiretap evidence during his trial.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that defendants have a right to see all wiretap evidence used against them.

In a hearing similar to Hoffa's, Judge Julius Hoffman of U.S. District Court ruled last week that illegal wiretap evidence had not been used against Sam "Teetz" Battaglia, Chicago underworld figure, in his 1967 extortion conviction.

Hoffa's hearing is before Judge Richard B. Austin.