

Car of Hoffa Witness Bugged

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CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Aug. 26 (UPI)—An FBI electronics expert outlined for a federal court judge today how he planted two microphones and a recorder in the car of the government's star witness in the James R. Hoffa jury tampering trial.

Attempting to win Hoffa a new trial, attorneys for the Teamsters Union president called Bruce E. Fisher of Washington, D.C., to testify about monitoring devices he placed in the car of Baton Rouge, La., Teamsters official Grady Partin.

Hoffa's attorneys apparently hoped to link Fisher's testimony to their claim that the

government maintained an illegal surveillance of Hoffa and his co-defendants and thus violated their constitutional rights.

Fisher testified he was acting on orders of Walter Sheridan, then a Justice Department investigator, when he installed the microphones and recorder in Partin's car in the spring of 1963.

He said he installed the microphones at Birmingham and the recorder "somewhere in the country" outside Nashville. On both occasions, he said, FBI agents brought the car to a designated location and he did not see Partin.

Former Justice Department

attorney James F. Neal testified earlier that the devices were used to record conversations between Partin and Hoffa co-defendant Ewing King, but said there was nothing illegal about such surveillance.

Attorneys for the defendants maintained, however, that there has been no proof the microphones and recorder were planted with Partin's knowledge and consent.

The defense also accused the government of skirting the facts about its surveillance of Hoffa.

"We're dealing in half-truths and no truths from the government," said Morris Shenker, Hoffa's chief attorney.

ney. "I think we should have more latitude in our examination of evidence."

Shenker charged that the government waited four years to admit the use of electronic bugs in its investigation of jury tampering during Hoffa's trial in Nashville on charges of sharing in a \$1 million payoff from a Detroit trucking firm.

The defense has sought to examine the Justice Department's top-secret "June File" and other documents relating to surveillance of the Teamsters Union, but Judge Frank Wilson has refused to allow it on grounds it has no bearing on Hoffa's bid for a new trial.