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Court Asked to Clear Hoffa; Witness Is Called Perjurer

CINCINNATI, Oct. 19 (UPI) —Attorneys for James R. Hoffa asked a Federal court yesterday to overturn his 1964 jury-tempering conviction on the ground that the key Government witness at the trial committed perjury.

Lawyers representing the paroled former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters contended that the witness, Edward Grady Partin of Baton Rouge, La., was a Government informer, but the Justice Department refused to acknowledge it.

Herman Mellman, a St. Louis lawyer told a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit that the Government had installed an electronic listening device in an auto driven by Mr. Partin to obtain evidence against Hoffa.

"The falsity of his testimony was known to the Department of Justice," Mr. Mellman charged.