

# Former MGM Executive Flees Before Court Date

BALTIMORE, Jan. 3 (AP) — Giancarlo Parretti, the Italian financier, has fled the country ahead of sentencing scheduled for Monday for perjury and evidence tampering in the case that cost him control of MGM studios, his lawyer said today.

A warrant was issued today for Mr. Parretti's arrest, Mary Pitcavage, a clerk at Delaware Superior Court in Wilmington, said.

Jay M. Coggan, a Beverly Hills, Calif., lawyer, said he had received a fax-signed by Mr. Parretti that said the businessman had left the United States and was in Italy — a violation of his bail agreement.

"I have no idea what was in Mr. Parretti's mind," Mr. Coggan said. "Suffice it to say I was shocked and surprised, and I never believed he would do such a thing." He said he notified the authorities this morning immediately after receiving Mr. Parretti's fax.

Mr. Parretti recently lost an important legal battle when a judge denied his request to reopen the 1991 case that cost him MGM.

Mr. Parretti argued he possessed new evidence that justified such a move, but Chancellor William Allen of the Delaware Chancery Court rejected Mr. Parretti's position. Mr. Allen, in a decision released on Dec. 24, said Mr. Parretti had failed to show how the outcome might be changed because of the new evidence.

Mr. Parretti lost control of MGM when Crédit Lyonnais of France, the bank that financed his \$1.3 billion purchase of the studio in 1990, seized MGM, after saying that Mr. Parretti had defaulted on loans and grossly mismanaged it.

Crédit Lyonnais sued Mr. Parretti

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in 1991, arguing that the financier had continued to exert day-to-day control over the studio after agreeing to relinquish it to the bank. The court ruled in the bank's favor.

Recently, Crédit Lyonnais sold the studio to a group including Kirk Kerkorian, the billionaire who had originally sold it to Mr. Parretti.

In early October, Mr. Parretti was found guilty of perjury and tampering with evidence in the 1991 case, charges that could bring sentences of up to 10 years in prison.

He remained free on bail after a state jury convicted him and was scheduled for sentencing on Monday.

Mr. Parretti still has a lawsuit pending in Los Angeles against Crédit Lyonnais, accusing the bank of conspiring to seize control of the studio. That trial is scheduled for March.

Mr. Parretti is also wanted by French authorities, who tried to extradite him from the United States.