

American Shipbuilding Co. Case

Executive Pleads Guilty

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Associated Press

An official of American Ship Building Co. pleaded guilty yesterday to being an accessory after the fact in an effort to cover up an illegal corporate campaign contribution to President Nixon's 1972 re-election effort.

John H. Melcher Jr., executive vice president and general counsel of the company, was released on personal recognizance pending completion of a presentence report.

U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. advised Melcher that the maximum penalty for the misdemeanor charge is one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

George M. Steinbrenner III, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of American Ship Building, was indicted recently in connection with the illegal \$25,000 contribution.

Steinbrenner is scheduled for arraignment in Cleveland on Friday.

The charge to which Melcher pleaded guilty alleged that he assisted Steinbrenner

in an effort to cover up the illegal contribution by giving a false explanation to American Ship Building employees which they then gave to the FBI.

It also alleged that Melcher gave a false explanation of the