



AP Wirephoto.

TIM BABCOCK

Illegal concealment
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Guilty Plea In Nixon Funds Case

Washington

Former Montana Governor Tim M. Babcock pleaded guilty yesterday to illegally concealing the origin of \$54,000 in political contributions from multimillionaire Armand Hammer to the 1972 Nixon re-election campaign.

Hammer, a global patron of the arts and chairman of the Occidental Petroleum Corp., is under investigation for similar charges, the special Watergate prosecutor's office said.

Babcock, 55, a Republican, admitted that from September, 1972, to June, 1974, he "did aid and abet Armand Hammer in the commission of the offense."

A criminal information, or charge, filed in U.S. District Court said Babcock made three deliveries in cash from Hammer to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Instead of listing Hammer as the contributor, he identified five other persons, including himself, as the source of the funds. The other four were Jerome Anderson, Elmer G. Balsam, Gordon L. Doering and Willard L. Holter, a state Republican official in Montana.

Babcock at the time was a vice president for Occidental International, a subsidiary of Hammer's parent firm.

The former governor is the current owner and manager of radio and television station KTCM and the owner of a motel in Helena.

Chief U.S. District Judge George L. Hart postponed sentencing. Babcock could receive a maximum one year in jail or fined \$1000 or both on the misdemeanor charge.

Associated Press