

# Millionaire to Face

Washington

A federal judge rejected yesterday a guilty plea from Armand Hammer and ordered the

ailing millionaire to stand trial on charges of covering up a \$54,000 illegal donation to Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign.

## Trial

Hammer's lawyer, Arthur Groman, said Hammer is suffering from advanced heart disease. Groman pleaded with the U.S. district court to accept a guilty plea without imprisonment. Anything less than leniency could be fatal to Hammer, Groman said.

But Chief Judge William B. Jones, noting inconsistencies in Hammer's sworn statements to the court about the case, rejected the plea.

Hammer, 78, is the chairman of Occidental Petroleum Co.

He allegedly contributed \$46,000 to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign before April 7, 1972, when a contribution disclosure law took effect, and another \$54,000 after April 7.

But Hammer allegedly got an Occidental employee, Tim Babcock, to plead guilty of violating the campaign contributions law. Babcock accepted responsibility in statements to the Senate Watergate committee, the FBI and other federal investigators. But he began telling a different story last year, saying that the money actually came from Hammer.

Judge Jones said he will set a trial date next week. Hammer would be the first corporate



ARMAND HAMMER  
Guilty plea was rejected

executive to stand trial for alleged illegal campaign contributions.

The courts have accepted guilty pleas without admissions or denials of guilt from other corporate executives.

The judge said Hammer filed a guilty plea with the court October 1, then contradicted it in November during an interview with a probation officer.

*United Press*