

# Testimony Of Hammer Is Ordered

By Timothy S. Robinson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Millionaire oilman Armand Hammer was ordered yesterday to testify in a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of alleged payoffs to foreign officials with Occidental Petroleum Corp. funds.

Hammer's attorneys argued that the 77-year-old oilman is too ill to undergo the questioning and that he should not be forced to testify.

However, U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt noted that Hammer recently took a trip to Russia and is still actively operating as Occidental's chief executive officer despite his age and health situation.

"We'll assume Dr. Hammer has a serious heart problem. He's going to die someday like the rest of us and every breath he takes is one breath less. But the commission is entitled to take Dr. Hammer's deposition," Judge Pratt said.

Judge Pratt said the deposition, which probably will be taken by SEC attorneys in January, should be conducted at or near Hammer's home in California. A physician should attend the examination to advise on the possibility of rest periods, he added.

The judge gave the com-

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pany until Dec. 31 to turn over to the commission certain documents concerning the alleged payoffs.

The documents and the testimony must be kept confidential by the commission except for use in legitimate investigations, and the company must be notified before they are made public, Judge Pratt said.

Occidental is one of a number of major U.S. corporations being investigated by the SEC for possible violations of securities laws in connection with the alleged payment of bribes to foreign officials or illegal contributions to political campaigns in the U.S.

Last Friday, U.S. District Chief Judge William B. Jones ordered Hammer to stand trial on charges that he violated campaign contribution laws by making \$54,000 in illegal payments to the re-election effort of former President Richard M. Nixon in 1972.

Hammer had pleaded guilty to the charges, but Judge Jones withdrew the plea after Hammer wrote a letter to the probation office in which he essentially repudiated the version he had given of the contributions at the time he pleaded guilty.

Hammer's doctors say he has a serious heart disease that makes him vulnerable to a potentially fatal heart attack.

Hammer did not attend yesterday's hearing before Judge Pratt.