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# **U.S. Ready On Hammer**

## **Prosecution**

The Watergate special prosecutor's office informed U.S. District Court Chief Judge William B. Jones yesterday that it is ready to prosecute millionaire oilman Armand Hammer on charges of violating campaign financing laws.

Last Friday Judge Jones withdrew Hammer's guilty plea to the charges, and told the special prosecutors to let him know this week if they planned to proceed to trial.

The prosecutors could have dropped the charges or attempted to work out a new plea-bargaining arrangement with the 77-year-old chief executive officer of the Occidental Oil Corp. Former Montana Gov. Tim Babcock, who worked for Hammer, already faces a four-month prison term on his guilty plea in the same case.

Jones withdrew Hammer's guilty plea after the oilman wrote a letter to the probation office repudiating an earlier version of the \$54,000 campaign contribution to the reelection efforts of President Nixon. The trial is expected in mid-January.

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