

## Oilman Pleads Guilty

Los Angeles

Industrialist Armand Hammer pleaded guilty yesterday to three misdemeanor counts of making illegal campaign contributions to former President Richard Nixon.

Hammer, 77, came to the federal courtroom from a hospital and made his plea in a wheelchair.

The chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp., Hammer had pleaded guilty to the charges once before in Washington, D.C., but the judge there overturned the plea after Hammer wrote a 20-page letter to his probation officer in which he blamed former Montana Governor Tim Babcock for the \$54,000 in illegal contributions.

But yesterday, asked by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Lydick whether his new plea was being offered because he is guilty or because he wants to dispose of the case, Hammer said: "I'm pleading because I'm guilty."

Lydick deferred setting a date for sentencing until the federal probation service prepares a pre-sentence report on



ARMAND HAMMER (IN WHEELCHAIR) GOING TO COURT  
An escort tried to block photographers' view with his coat

AP Wirephoto

Hammer.

Hammer, who has been hospitalized since January 20 with what he told the judge is a

cardiac condition, faces a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a \$3000 fine.

Associated Press