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HAMMER ENTERS 2D GUILTY PLEAS

Chief of Occidental Admits
Illegal Contributions

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LOS ANGELES, March 4—

Armand Hammer, chief executive officer of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation, left a hospital bed today to plead guilty a second time to three counts of making and concealing \$54,000 in illegal contributions in 1972 to the re-election campaign of President Richard M. Nixon.

When Federal Court judge Lawrence T. Lydick asked him why he had entered the plea, the millionaire industrialist replied: "Because I'm guilty."

Dr. Hammer, who is 77 years old, sat in a wheelchair during the 20-minute hearing, but his voice was strong and clear when he repeatedly answered that he considered himself guilty of the charges in response to questions from the bench.

The industrialist entered the same pleas in a Washington William P. Jones subsequently invalidated the pleas after Dr. Hammer wrote to a probation officer that he was not really guilty of the crimes.

Former Officer

In the letter, he appeared to blame former Gov. Tim Babcock of Montana, who is a former officer of an Occidental subsidiary, for the illegal contributions to the Nixon campaign.

When the Watergate special prosecutors' office indicated it would seek felony charges against Dr. Hammer — rather than the misdemeanor counts to which he pleaded guilty today — Dr. Hammer turned to the United States Court of Appeals in Washington, which allowed him to retract the letter and reaffirm his guilty pleas.

The case was transferred to Los Angeles after Dr. Hammer was hospitalized with heart trouble in January. Dr. Hammer sought to enter his plea from his bed at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital here, claiming a court appearance would jeopardize his precarious health, but Judge Lydick refused to permit him to do so, and his physicians approved today's appearance.

Dr. Hammer faces a maximum punishment of three years in jail and a \$3,000 fine. Judge Lydick did not indicate when he would decide on the sentence.

Michael Lehr, an assistant Watergate special prosecutor, after Dr. Hammer referred to "plea bargaining" in his case, said that an agreement had been reached Dec. 10 between Herman Ruth, the former special prosecutor, and Edward Bennett Williams, a Washington lawyer representing the industrialist.