

WXP<sub>ost</sub> MAR. 24 1976  
**Hammer Put  
On Probation,  
Fined \$3,000**

LOS ANGELES, March 23 (AP)—Oil magnate Dr. Armand Hammer was sentenced to a year's probation and fined \$3,000 today for his part in making \$54,000 in illegal 1972 campaign contributions to President Nixon.

The 77-year-old founder and board chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp. appeared in a wheelchair and told the court:

"I greatly regret my actions. For all of my life I have tried to lead a useful life. I trust in the time that may be left me, your honor will allow me to continue being a useful member of society."

U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence T. Lydick could have sentenced the multimillionaire industrialist to three years in prison. Lydick said he was not imposing a prison term because of Hammer's age and health.

Hammer has been hospitalized since Jan. 20 for what his attorney called serious heart disease.

Hammer was indicted by a federal grand jury last year on charges of making \$54,000 in secret contributions under fictitious names to Nixon's re-election campaign. The contributions were made through former Montana Gov. Tim Babcock, then as official of an Occidental subsidiary.

Babcock, a Republican, was governor of Montana from 1962 to 1969. He pleaded guilty in December, 1974, to concealing the source of the contribution. In January, 1975, he was sentenced to serve four months in prison, but he is appealing the sentence and has not served any time in prison.

Hammer pleaded guilty to the charges in Washington last October, but the case was reopened after Hammer wrote a 20-page letter to his probation officer blaming the episode on Babcock.

When he pleaded guilty again on March 4—the case having been transferred here because of the defendant's poor health—Hammer said he was withdrawing the statements made in the letter. He told the judge: "I'm pleading because I'm guilty."