

EX-POSTMASTER GENERAL

FINED FOR AIDING HAMMER

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (UPI)—Former Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson pleaded guilty today to helping Armand Hammer, the chairman of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation, cover up illegal campaign contributions.

Judge George Hart fined Mr. Watson \$500 on the ground that Mr. Hammer and other Occidental employees were more involved in the illegal contributions and escaped prison sentences. A maximum sentence would have been \$500 and six months in jail.

Mr. Watson, 52 years old, was Postmaster General under President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and was an aide in the Johnson White House for three years before that.

He was employed by Occidental when, according to charges filed by the Watergate Special Prosecutor's office, he assisted Mr. Hammer and an aide, Tim Babcock, in covering up 1972 campaign contributions.

According to testimony, Mr. Watson did not know of the contributions when they were made, but in July 1973, and in March 1974, he arranged delivery of false documents to help Mr. Hammer's assertion that the contributions were made by others. The contributions were made under names other than Mr. Hammer's.