

Guilty Plea In Gurney Fund Case

Washington

A former government official pleaded guilty yesterday to charges that he illegally collected campaign funds for Senator Edward Gurney of Florida, a Republican member of the Senate Watergate committee.

William Pelski was charged with soliciting campaign contributions in exchange for promises of government loans while he was director of the Federal Housing Administration office in Coral Gables, Fla.

The Justice Department's formal charges against Pelski did not spell out whether Gurney was aware of Pelski's activities, but it did name the senator's former administrative assistant and one of his fund raisers as co-conspirators but not defendants.

Pelski headed the FHA office in Coral Gables between 1970 and 1972, but it was alleged the conspiracy continued until October, 1973.

The government alleged that Pelski would approve contractors' applications for government - insured loans after the Gurney fund-raiser confirmed that the applicants had made contributions to the senator.

Reuters