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GURNEY WITNESS TRACES FUND ROLE

Ex-Housing Aide Testifies
on Campaign Tactics

TAMPA, Fla., March 13 (UPI) —The first witness in the bribery-conspiracy trial of former Senator Edward J. Gurney testified today that he had been a willing participant in a political fund-raising scheme for the Florida Republican.

William Pelski, a former official of The Federal Housing Authority, said that he had supplied the names of builders he thought might be willing to contribute to a political slush fund for Senator Gurney in exchange for favorable treatment from Federal housing agencies.

Mr. Pelski, director of the F.H.A. office in Coral Gables from Nov. 23, 1970 to Dec. 10, 1972, was the first witness in the trial of Mr. Gurney and four co-defendants.

Mr. Pelski testified he first met Mr. Groot and Larry Williams, a fund-raiser for Senator Gurney, in his office Jan. 27, 1971, and suggested the "most lucrative" areas for fund raising would be those involving builders of subsidized single-family and multi-family projects.

"I told Larry Williams two weeks later that I had had time to check out the programs and I told him we had a group of builders in south Florida who had already built some projects but who still were awaiting funding approval," Mr. Pelski said.

Mr. Pelski said that Mr. Williams would identify himself to builders as a representative of Senator Gurney and let them know he had contacts in the F.H.A. and would help them. He said Mr. Williams then would "hit them up for campaign contributions.

"I agreed to help them and I was pleased to help them," Mr. Pelski said.