

Gurney Trial

TAMPA—Joseph Bastien, a former aide to ex-Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.), told a federal jury yesterday he was never told why he was getting apartment rent and furniture from Florida builders.

Bastien, winding up his testimony, said he never tried to keep the rent payments a secret. The government charges that builders were shaken down for money in exchange for favors from Gurney's office.

Bastien denied criminal charges against him and said he was never part of any agreement to defraud the government.

In testimony Tuesday, Bastien said he accepted expense money from Gurney fund-raiser Larry Williams.