

## Notes on People

# Gurney Needs Funds for Trial

Still facing a second Federal trial on conspiracy and perjury charges, Edward J. Gurney, the former Republican Senator from Florida, says he may be unable to raise the money to finance his defense. He appeared in Orlando with his lawyer, C. Harris Dittmar, who told the court Tuesday he might have to withdraw from the case for lack of legal fees.

"It's as simple as that—I don't have it," said Mr. Gurney, aged 61, who sat on the Senate Watergate committee. He said he still owes \$200,000 on a \$350,000 legal bill for his five-month-long trial for soliciting campaign funds in exchange for favors in Washington. He was acquitted of five felony charges. Mr. Dittmar said his client was trying to mortgage his house and was even more pessimistic about the former Senator's prospects.

"Mr. Gurney is indebted to my law firm for a staggering amount," he said. "He will be lucky if he can pay it off in his lifetime."