

A Report on Fund Raiser For Gurney

Miami

The Miami Herald said in its Sunday editions that a volunteer worker for Senator Edward Gurney (Rep-Fla.) once asked a Gainesville, Fla., developer for \$5000 in cash in exchange for federal approval of the builder's apartment project.

The article quoted the builder, Philip Emmer, as saying a Gurney fundraiser, Larry Williams, sought \$2000 from him in 1971 and an additional \$3000 after Emmer's multi-million dollar project was approved by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

An FBI investigation of Emmer's allegations failed to turn up sufficient evidence for an indictment, the U.S. Justice Department announced last week.

The Herald article had been anticipated by Gurney, who Friday issued a statement saying Williams' relationship to his staff was strictly as a volunteer.

"I know of no instance when he was characterized as a staff member," Gurney said in his statement. "Indeed he could not have been since he has never been a member of my staff nor was he ever employed by me."

Gurney said he anticipated the Herald article as part of "their political hatchet-work" on him to keep him from being re-elected.

Gurney is a member of the Senate Watergate committee.

Williams told the Herald he met Emmer in 1971 and discussed with him political contributions and the FHA approval which Emmer needed. But, Williams said, he never asked Emmer for a specific cash amount or told him approval for the apartment project depended on a contribution.

United Press