

GURNEY WITNESS SAYS HE KEPT CASH

Ex-Aide of Senator Tells
of Using Payoff Funds

TAMPA, Fla., May 8 (AP)—Larry Williams testified today that in the 2½ years he collected payoffs from builders in the name of former Senator Edward J. Gurney, he concealed \$48,500 for himself and still has some of the money.

Mr. Williams, 30 years old, testified for the eighth day, his first under cross-examination, in the bribery conspiracy

trial of the former Florida Republican, and four others.

He previously acknowledged accumulating that much between 1971 and 73 while he was Senator Gurney's fundraiser.

Mr. Gurney, aides of the former Senator, James Groot and Joseph Bastien, and former Federal housing officials K. Wayne Swiger and Ralph Koontz, are charged with conspiracy to create an illegal \$233,000 fund from builder payoffs by peddling Mr. Gurney's influence with the Federal Housing Administration.

Mr. Williams says he raised about \$400,000 from Florida builders by helping them obtain F.H.A. favors.

He started keeping some of the money for himself in the fall of 1971, about nine months

after he started fund-raising, he said.

He told Mr. Gurney's lawyer, C. Harris Dittmar, that he had kept the cash in a coat pocket in a bedroom closet in a stack of \$100 bills that was 3 to 4 inches thick.

Amended Tax Form

He filed an amended tax form in August 1973, after the investigation was under way, paid \$19,000 on it and put it in the American Federal Savings and Loan Association of Orlando, he said.

Mr. Williams said he bore no animosity toward Mr. Gurney, blamed only himself for his involvement and denied ever threatening "to get Senator Gurney."

Mr. Dittmar asked about Senator Gurney's telecast in De-

cember, 1973, in which the Senator denied any wrongdoing and said he had believed Mr. Williams was a volunteer worker.

Mr. Williams said the broadcast had made him very upset.

He said he had "let it be known the full story had not come out and what the Senator said on TV about me was not true and that it would come out."

"If that meant getting somebody, then it meant getting somebody," he said.

Mr. Williams again admitted lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Nov. 4, 1971, when questioned about a builder's allegation of a shakedown attempt. He said he had done it to protect Mr. Gurney.

"Were you also trying to

protect Larry Williams," Mr. Dittmar asked, and Mr. Williams said that would be fair statement. "Would you still lie under oath now to protect Larry Williams." Mr. Dittmar asked. "Protect me from what?" Mr. Williams replied. Mr. Dittmar said, "Further prosecution."
"I have two felonies and a year now, sir," Mr. Williams answered.