

PLEA FOR GURNEY IS GOING TO JUDGE

JUN 20 1975

Prosecution Rests Its Case

—Defense Moves Today

NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

TAMPA, Fla., June 19—After 17 weeks of testimony, a five-man prosecution team concluded its case today at the trial in United States District Court of former Senator Edward J. Gurney. The chief prosecutor, Harvey E. Schlesinger of Jacksonville, and his assistants had presented 69 witnesses and introduced almost 300 documentary items as evidence. The trial began with jury selection on Feb. 24.

Judge Ben Krentzman said that he would hear arguments from defense lawyers tomorrow without the jury being present. The lawyers are expected to move, among other things, that the judge grant motions for a directed verdict of acquittal.

Mr. Gurney, a 61-year-old Florida Republican, served as a member of the Senate Water-gate committee and was in office from 1968 through 1974. He did not seek re-election last year following his indictment.

Also on trial are Joseph Bastien, Mr. Gurney's former aide in Winter Park, Fla.; K. Wayne

Swiger, former director of the Tampa office of the Federal Housing Administration, and Ralph M. Koontz, former assistant to the Florida director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The prosecution's last witness was Edward J. Kohrs, a Tampa lawyer who served as Mr. Gurney's campaign manager in Hillsborough County (Tampa) in 1968.

Mr. Kohrs testified that on three occasions in 1972 he personally warned Mr. Gurney to look into the activities of Larry E. Williams of Orlando, a fundraiser who was soliciting funds from builders doing business with Federal housing agencies.

Mr. Kohrs testified that one meeting took place in the Senate dining room in late July, 1972. After he warned Mr. Gurney about Mr. Williams's activities, "he [Mr. Gurney] said that's been toned down," Mr. Kohrs said.

Mr. Gurney testified before a Federal grand jury last year that he did not gain knowledge until the summer of 1973 about Mr. Williams's solicitation of campaign contributions from builders seeking federally subsidized projects from the F.H.A.

If Judge Krentzman denies the motion for a directed verdict of acquittal, the defense lawyers are expected to begin to present their case beginning Monday, when the jury is to return.

Mr. Gurney is charged with conspiracy, receiving unlawful compensation and making false statements to a grand jury in connection with a campaign fund-raising operation that allegedly took place on his behalf from 1971 until 1973.

Williams Key Witness

The prosecutors depended heavily in their presentation on the testimony of Mr. Williams, who served four months in prison after pleading guilty to reduced charges in the case.

Mr. Williams testified—and two other witnesses corroborated—that Mr. Gurney personally hired him as a fund-raiser during a telephone conversation in January, 1971.

Three other persons originally charged in the case subsequently pleaded guilty to conspiracy and testified for the Government. They are Earl M. Crittenden, former chairman of the Florida Republican party; George F. Anderson, former treasurer of the party, and James L. Groot, Mr. Gurney's former administrative assistant in Washington.

Mr. Groot testified that it was an accepted practice in the Senator's office not to inform Mr. Gurney about any details of the fund-raising operation.

Mr. Williams testified that he raised about \$400,000 in the operation, supposedly to support Mr. Gurney's planned bid for re-election in 1974.