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Around the Nation

Gurney

Acquittal Denied

TAMPA, Fla.—A federal judge denied yesterday all motions for directed verdicts of acquittal for former Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.) and three co-defendants on trial in an alleged slush fund conspiracy.

U.S. District Judge Ben Krentzman ordered the defense to begin presenting its case Monday.

Gurney's attorney, C. Harris Dittmar, and lawyers for the other defendants had argued for directed verdicts, claiming the government failed to produce sufficient evidence to prove its case.

The government claimed it had presented more than enough evidence to substantiate the charges listed in a lengthy indictment.

The government wrapped up its lengthy presentation in the four-month-old bribery conspiracy trial Thursday after presenting 69 witnesses.

Gurney, ex-aide Joseph Bastien, and former federal housing officials K. Wayne Swiger and Ralph Koontz are charged with conspiring to raise an illegal \$283,000 slush fund from builder kickbacks by peddling Gurney's influence for favors from the Federal Housing Administration.

Gurney also is charged with bribery and receiving unlawful compensation in connection with a Vero Beach condominium, and four counts of lying to a grand jury that indicted him last July.