

Payoffs Laid To Gurney Corporation

MIAMI, Dec. 30 (UPI) — A corporation formed last year by Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.) allegedly collected payoffs from Florida builders for the senator's personal use in exchange for his promise of influence at the Federal Housing Administration, according to the Miami Herald.

The Herald reported in its Sunday editions that Oxnard Inc., which the senator has said was formed to take over a land option in St. Petersburg held by Gurney fund-raiser Larry Williams, collected money from FHA builders.

Some of the money, the newspaper said, went toward paying for lawn care at Gurney's home in Winter Park.

The Herald has published a series of articles dealing with alleged financial corruption within Gurney's office. The senator, whose finances are the subject of a federal investigation, has denied any wrongdoing.

Jim Allison, a Gurney aide, said Friday that the senator specifically ordered Williams not to involve the corporation in government programs. The corporation was owned by Gurney, Williams and another former aide, Jim Groot.

The Herald cites sources as saying that after Oxnard was chartered, Williams continued to solicit payoffs from builders in exchange for Gurney's influence in the FHA.

Previous Herald stories have reported that at least \$300,000 was obtained by Williams from builders.