

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Gurney Violated Campaign Law

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Sen. Ed Gurney, the handsome handmaiden of the White House during the Senate probe of Watergate campaign tactics, is himself in criminal violation of campaign contributions laws.

Gurney, in failing to file as a candidate for re-election to his Senate seat, put himself squarely in the way of a one-year jail term and a \$1,000 fine.

The violation, which his staff concedes, but insists is "purely technical," occurred as a result of a gala fund-raiser on May 23, 1973. Fat-cats, including presidential friends "Bebe" Rebozo and the late Murray Chotiner, bought \$21,000 worth of tickets for the Gurney cocktail party.

To bank the money, Gurney authorized formation of the "Friends of Gurney," a political committee dedicated to his reelection. And under federal law, which Gurney helped pass in 1971, this clearly fits the "definitions (of) a candidate," as spelled out by the statute.

The law specifies that Gurney had to file an accounting with the Secretary of the Senate by June 10, 1973, even though the "Friends of Gurney" did make a filing. Gurney failed to file.

For month after month, Gurney has been sitting on the

Watergate committee which is dealing with the very laws he has violated. Indeed, the Florida fashion plate has been particularly cutting toward anti-Nixon witnesses who he thought strayed from the straight and narrow.

However, it was not until our associate Bob Owens confronted his office with the fact of his violation that Gurney finally filed the proper forms with the Secretary of the Senate, seven months too late.

In long talks with Gurney staffers, they admitted that the senator was technically in criminal violation of the law, but they said other senators were equally guilty. They insisted that Gurney had not committed any "willful" crime.

Two federal grand juries are already looking into reports that Gurney's office had secretly collected more than \$100,000 from contractors seeking help with government loans. Gurney has denied he had anything to do with illegal activities.

Footnote: A Justice Department spokesman refused to comment on whether Justice is adding the Gurney campaign disclosure case to the grand jury studies of beleaguered senator's office.

CROWN JEWELS—If President Nixon goes broke paying his back taxes, perhaps, like the

deposed Czarist princes, he can count on his womenfolk to sell their abundant gems for him. While Mrs. Nixon is modest about her jewelry, sticking mainly to small earrings and other dainty, gee-gaws, the First Family's jeweler keeps thick books listing the gems of Tricia and Rose Mary Woods, the President's loyal secretary, and a smaller book for Julie, our informants tell us. The handsome books contain detailed pictures of the jewels, presumably so they can be circulated to police if the gems are lost or stolen. Many gems in Tricia's collection were given to her as wedding gifts when she married into the well-to-do family of ex-Nader aide Eddie Cox. When we asked the jeweler about the White House gems, an employee gasped, "Which one of our clients gave you that information?" The jeweler himself refused to talk about his famous clients.

Enigmatic Envoy—U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Lloyd Miller failed to inform the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when he was confirmed a few weeks ago that he was involved in two ugly civil suits. They charge that the Cincinnati businessman, who has no diplomatic experience, but contributed \$36,000 to Nixon campaigns, has misused corporate funds and breached his corporate duty. Miller's lawyer,

himself a defendant in one suit, claims it's all a "personal vendetta" by company dissidents. Miller refused to speak to us.

Shhhh . . . Maps—The CIA, which prides itself on its hush-hush documents, is quietly publishing maps for the general public. The maps of West Germany, Sweden, Yugoslavia, South Vietnam and North Korea include ports, airfields, vegetation, population density and ethnic groups. Asked whether guerrillas might not find the maps useful for anti-government action, a CIA spokesman said that all secret information has been sanitized out.

Female Feuder—The Commerce Department's contentious patent czar, Dr. Betsy Ancker-Johnson, unceremoniously kicked a Justice Department antitrust expert out of a briefing she was giving to a House subcommittee. Dr. Ancker-Johnson was trying to convince the subcommittee that the taxpayer should give up hundreds of millions of dollars worth of patents to the energy industry, even if the patents are developed with government funds. The Justice Department is fighting the boondoggle. A spokesman for Dr. Ancker-Johnson admitted she ordered the Justice lawyer to keep out. "Justice can have their own meetings," the spokesman huffed.

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