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EX-F.H.A. AIDE GETS 18 MONTHS IN JAIL

Former Official Sentenced
on Gurney Campaign Funds

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP)—A former Federal Housing Administration official pleaded guilty today to conspiring to defraud the Government by making loan commitments to political contributors to Senator Edward J. Gurney, Republican of Florida, the Justice Department announced.

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said the plea by William F. Pelski, 42 years old, of Pompano Beach, Fla., followed the filing of a criminal information in United States District court in Miami.

Mr. Pelski was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

Mr. Pelski, a former Pompano Beach Mayor, was director of the F.H.A. insuring office in Coral Gables before his resignation in 1972 after two years in the job.

Named as co-conspirators in the information but not charged were James L. Groot, Mr. Gurney's former administrative assistant, and Larry E. Williams, a fund raiser for the Senator.

A Justice Department spokesman emphasized that there was nothing in the information to link Senator Gurney with any wrongdoing. "It is possible that these people were doing this without his knowledge," said the spokesman.

Mr. Gurney, who is running for re-election, has denied any knowledge of illegal campaign activities on his behalf.

The Justice Department charged that Mr. Pelski had given Mr. Williams the names of builders who had applied for F.H.A. insuring commitments for mortgages and loans.

Mr. Williams, said the department, would then solicit and receive political contributions for Mr. Gurney from contractors.

The department said Mr. Williams delivered the money to Groot, who used it to pay various expenses incurred by Senator Gurney and his staff in Washington and Florida.

Mr. Williams would then instruct Mr. Pelski to give insurance commitments to builders who had agreed to make the contributions, the department said.

Mr. Williams pleaded guilty in January to charges of aiding and abetting the illegal payment of money to Mr. Pelski and filing a false income tax return.

He is scheduled to report to Federal marshals tomorrow to begin serving a one-year sentence.

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