

Gurney Reported Indicted

By Barbara Frye

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 29 (UPI)—Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.), a member of the Senate Watergate committee, has been indicted by a Leon County grand jury on charges of failing to report campaign contributions, UPI learned today.

A reputable source said Gurney was charged, in a sealed indictment to be delivered to Gurney's attorney Tuesday, with violating a state election law requiring the reporting of campaign contributions.

Gurney is believed to be the first Florida member of Congress ever to be indicted.

The indictment was handed down by the same grand jury that last week charged State Education Commissioner Floyd Christian—who later resigned—with 19 felony counts of accepting kickbacks and bribes in the awarding of state contracts, and then lying about it to a legislative committee and the grand jurors.

Contacted in Washington, Gurney aide John Gardner said the senator had no comment but may have something to say Tuesday morning.

Since the indictment was sealed and officialy cannot be disclosed until served, neither State Attorney Harry Morrison nor sheriff's deputies would comment. Grand jury foreman Walter A. Roberts said neither he nor any of the jurors could comment on matters before the jury.

But a source said the indictment will be made public sometime Tuesday after Gurney's attorney accepts service of the summons.

The alleged violation is a first-degree misdemeanor, carrying a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The grand jury last week watched a videotape of a Dec. 6 Jacksonville news conference at which Gurney admitted that he knew in 1972 of \$100,000 in contributions collected on his behalf but did not report them because he was not an active candidate at the time and had no campaign apparatus for reporting.

But Attorney General Robert Shevin and Circuit Court Judge John A. Rudd advised the jurors that the law applied to a person between campaigns if he intended to be a candidate. Gurney recently announced his candidacy for reelection.

Election officials said that

no one has ever been charged under the so-called "who got it, who gave it law."

The \$100,000 that Gurney admitted learning about was part of a \$400,000 slush fund reportedly raised on Gurney's behalf from builders seeking influence with the Federal Housing Administration.