

Gurney Pleads Innocent in Scandal

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla., July 16—Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) pleaded innocent today to charges of bribery, conspiracy and lying to a federal grand jury. He was freed on a \$1,000 unsecured bond.

Gurney, a member of the Senate Watergate committee, made an unscheduled appearance at 3:45 p.m. at the office of the U.S. magistrate, Joseph Hatchett.

Harris Dittmar of Jacksonville, Gurney's attorney, en-

tered a not guilty plea on each of the charges that evolved from a fund-raising scandal that allegedly netted at least \$233,000 in contributions from builders seeking favors from Gurney through the Federal Housing Administration.

Unlike most defendants charged with federal crimes, Gurney was not processed by U.S. marshals at his arraignment. The processing procedure includes fingerprinting and photographing for federal records.

As he left the federal courthouse Gurney said he is still uncertain whether he will stay in the race for another term in the Senate, but said he will not resign his seat before his present term expires.

"I'm a candidate now," Gurney said, "but the indictment does require some assessment."

Six other defendants indicted with Gurney last week are scheduled to be arraigned Aug. 1.