

Gurney's Lament

Cocoa Beach, Fla.

U.S. Senator Ed Gurney, (Rep-Fla.) saying he is "sick of politics," will decide early this week whether to abandon his re-election campaign in the face of federal indictments for bribery and conspiracy.

Republican party leaders have been pressuring Gurney, a member of the Senate Watergate committee and a staunch supporter of President Nixon, to withdraw from the campaign for the GOP primary election September 12 because of the indictments.

"My assessment shows I

could win the nomination," Gurney told a group of Young Republicans Saturday night. "The general election is another matter. That's what I'm trying to find out."

Florida GOP chairman L. E. Thomas has been urging Gurney to withdraw and has threatened to convene the state executive committee to consider the matter unless Gurney drops from the race.

"I'm sick of politics," Gurney said. But he added that so far he has been able to withstand the pressure to withdraw.

"It's a tough year for Re-

publicans — especially Republicans in trouble — and I've certainly got troubles," Gurney said.

Gurney was indicted by a federal grand jury in Jacksonville July 10 on 11 counts of bribery, conspiracy and perjury in connection with fundraising activities on his behalf. He is charged with demanding payments from home builders in exchange for influence in awarding lucrative federal housing contracts.

The first-term Republican pleaded innocent to the charges at his arraignment last Monday.

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