

Sen. Gurney Quits Race

Washington

Senator Edward F. Gurney withdrew as a candidate for re-election yesterday to devote his time to preparing a defense against charges of bribery, conspiracy and making false statements to a federal grand jury.

The 60-year-old Florida Republican, a member of—and Mr. Nixon's most loyal supporter on—the Senate Watergate committee, is completing his first term.

But Gurney added that he will serve out his present term, which ends in January.

Florida election officials removed Gurney's name from the official list of candidates before the noon deadline yesterday. The Republican and Democratic primaries will be held September 10.

"There is no sensible or sound way to conduct a statewide political race and prepare for, and go through a major trial," Gurney said.

Gurney, who became national known during the televised Watergate hearings last year, was charged with being the central figure in a scheme to extort money from real estate developers seeking Federal Housing Administration mortgage approvals.

"I am innocent of any wrongdoing and the first priority is to clear my name," the senator said yesterday. "After that is done, I will decide whether or not to resume a career in politics and government."

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