

NYTimes JUL 24 1974
**Senator Gurney Quits Campaign
 In Florida to Prepare for Trial**

By MARTIN WALDRON
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 23 — Senator Edward J. Gurney of Florida withdrew as a candidate for re-election today to prepare a defense against charges of bribery, conspiracy and making false statements to a Federal grand jury.

The 60-year-old Republican, who was a member of the Senate Watergate committee, is completing his first term.

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

Florida election officials removed Mr. Gurney's name from the official list of candidates who had qualified before the noon deadline today.

Senator Gurney's withdrawal

had been expected since last week when Florida Republican leaders began urging him publicly and privately not to seek re-election.

L.E. Thomas of Panama City, the state Republican chairman, had called Senator Gurney's indictment on July 10 a "mortal blow" to his chances to win a second term and had recommended publicly that Mr. Gurney withdraw.

Senator Gurney, who became nationally 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

Continued on Page 13, Column 1

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

Federal Housing Administration mortgage approvals.

A grand jury said that Senator Gurney and associates had collected more than \$223,000 in "contributions" from these sources. Six other men were indicted and 42 others named as unindicted co-conspirators.

'I Am Innocent'

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

Senator Gurney's indictment is the third major personal blow he has had since announcing for the Senate six years ago. His son, Edward F. Gurney 3d, committed suicide at the start of the Senate campaign in 1968, and the Senator's wife, Mrs. Natalie Gurney, has been confined to a nursing home in recent years.

An earlier hint that Senator Gurney would withdraw from the race had already resulted in several conadidate's qualifying for the Republican nomination, including Mrs. Paula Hawkins, a member of the Florida Public Service Commission, who is considered the best Republican woman campaigner in the state.

Primaries Sept. 10

Jack Eckerd, a principal in a chain of drug stores that bears his name, has also qualified. Mr. Eckerd spent more than \$1-million four years ago in an unsuccessful race for Governor.

Eleven Democrats have qualified for their party's nomination. Both the Republican and Democratic primaries will be Sept. 10, with runoffs schedule three weeks later.

The major Democratic candidates are expected to be Representative William Guner or



United Press International

Senator Edward J. Gurney disclosing Saturday in Florida he would announce his re-election decision later.

Orlando; Mallory Horne of Tallahassee, a powerful member of the State Legislature, and Richard Stone and Richard Pettigrew of Miami. Mr. Stone resigned as Florida's Secretary of State to run. Mr. Pettigrew is a former Speaker of the House who is now a State Senator.

Other Democratic candidates are Glenn W. Turner of Orlando, whose controversial method of selling cosmetic distributorships mad ehim millions of dollars, which he says he no longer has; George Palmer of Davie; David B. Higginbottom of Frostproof; Robert Brewster of Cape Canaveral, and Burton Young of Miami, a former president of the Florida Bar Association.

In addition there were two last-minute candidates: N. E. Justin of Boca Raton, who qualified yesterday, and Duane Macon, a west Florida real estate salesman who arrived to qualify this morning without any trousers on. He said he was making a "symbolic" protest against taxes.