

3 Senators Testify At Gurney's Trial To His Character

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TAMPA, F.L.A., June 27—
Three Senators testified as character witnesses today on behalf of former Senator Edward J. Gurney at the trial of Mr. Gurney and three co-defendants in United States District Court.

The three Senators who testified, former colleagues of Mr. Gurney when the Florida Republican was in office, were Clifford P. Hansen, Republican of Wyoming; James B. Allen, Democrat of Alabama, and Jesse A. Kelms, Republican of North Carolina.

The three flew to Tampa from Washington at their own expense to speak highly of what they said was Mr. Gurney's "excellent" reputation for integrity, veracity and being

a law-abiding citizen. On cross-examination they admitted however, to not having any personal knowledge about the issues in the trial.

Mr. Gurney, who is 61 years old, is charged with seven felonies in connection with an allegedly illegal campaign fund-raising operation that took place from 1971 to 1973. He is expected to testify in his own defense, possibly next week. Mr. Gurney said he would fly to Maine tomorrow to spend the weekend with his 89-year-old mother, who underwent major surgery today in Waterville, Me. The trial will continue Tuesday.