

Gurney Denies Fund Role

TAMPA, Fla.—Former Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) testified yesterday at his bribery-conspiracy trial, saying he knew nothing about an illegal slush fund for the first 18 months of its existence.

Claiming "a very poor memory," Gurney said he had no discussions about fund-raising activities between January, 1971, and June, 1972.

Gurney and three co-defendants are charged with conspiring to create a \$233,000 illegal slush fund from builder payoffs by peddling Gurney's influence with the Federal Housing Administration.

Gurney said he did not talk to anyone about fund-raising until June, 1972, when he learned about Larry Williams' fund-raising activities in his behalf.

The government claims the basis for the conspiracy was a January, 1971, meeting at Gurney's Florida home when the decision was made to hire Williams.

"I cannot in all honesty say I can remember," Gurney said of any discussion of Williams at that meeting.

"Everybody who knows me knows I have a very poor memory," Gurney said.

North Dakota Flood

BISMARCK, N.D.—A million acres of fertile Red River Valley farmland were under water after four days of rain. Officials say crop losses could run in excess of \$100 million.

Two farm towns have been evacuated, rivers are expected to crest well above flood stage and the National Weather Service predicts more rain throughout the area.

Gov. Arthur A. Link said he would expedite requests for federal disaster relief to assist farmers and to provide funds to help replace roads, bridges and other public works.

Link inspected flood-damaged sec-

tions of his state by plane and said up to 75 per cent of the fields in some counties were under water.

Milk Fund Case

SAN ANTONIO—The former general manager of the nation's largest dairy cooperative testified its board of directors was aware that contributions were being made illegally from corporate funds prior to the 1972 elections.

Harold S. Nelson of San Antonio, who served a four-month federal sentence for his part in the illicit campaign contributions by Associated Milk Producers Inc., said the funneling of corporate funds into various campaigns was discussed at a board meeting in Las Vegas in December, 1970, or January, 1971.

Nelson said he withheld total details of the contributions from the directors to lessen any criminal liability they might have if the illegalities were discovered.

Oklahoma City attorney Stuart Russell, 58, reportedly one of several lawyers and consultants the giant dairy concern used, is on trial on three counts of violating the campaign Practices Act, particularly in donations to Sen. Edmund S. Muskie's (D-Maine) campaigns. Russell's attorney maintains Russell was an unwitting accomplice to the illegalities to which the corporation pleaded guilty last year and paid a fine.