

TAMPA, Fla. — "It is a case of power, pure and simple political power," the chief prosecuting attorney told jurors as closing arguments began in the bribery-conspiracy trial of ex-Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) and three others.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Harvey Schlesinger said the 22-week trial provided a "rare glimpse" into the nation's political system.

Gurney, ex-aide Joseph Bastien and former Federal Housing Administration officials K. Wayne Swiger and Ralph Koontz are charged with conspiring to raise an illegal \$233,000 political slush fund by peddling Gurney's influence to builders seeking FHA contracts.

Gurney also is charged with bribery, accepting unlawful compensation and lying to a federal grand jury.

"What we have seen in this courtroom is a rare glimpse of how politics goes on — the relationship between political figures and political parties in raising political funds in this country," Schlesinger said.

He said there was never a question in the minds of the builders that Gurney fund-raiser Larry Williams represented Gurney when he approached them. "It was pure and simple influence peddling," Schlesinger said.

Gurney has said he didn't know that funds were being raised until June, 1972, and that he thought they were being raised legally.