

# Jury at Gurney Trial Returns Some Verdicts but Not Others

NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

AUG 5 1975

TAMPA, Fla., Aug. 4—On the eighth day of deliberations, a Federal Court jury at the trial of former Senator Edward J. Gurney and three co-defendants returned some verdicts today and declared itself unable to reach others. The verdicts were not made public.

United States District Judge Ben Krentzman had the verdicts sealed in an envelope and locked in a vault over the objections of defense lawyers, and ordered the jury to continue trying to reach other verdicts.

Judge Krentzman did not say which defendants the verdicts concerned or which of the eight felony charges had been decided. The judge himself apparently did not learn the contents of the verdicts handed to the court clerk by the jury foreman.

Mr. Gurney, 61 years old, a Florida Republican who was a member of the Senate Watergate committee, has been on trial with three other persons since Feb. 24 on charges stemming from an election campaign fund-raising operation. He did not seek re-election last year after being indicted for conspiracy, bribery, unlawful compensation and making false statements to a grand jury.

The other defendants are Joseph Bastien, a former aide

to the Senator, and Ralph Koontz and K. Wayne Swiger, suspended officials of the Federal Housing Administration.

The jury, which began deliberating last Monday and worked through the weekend, sent a note to the judge at 2:30 P.M. expressing a desire to conclude deliberations. The jurors have been sequestered at a downtown hotel for two weeks.

"After long and careful deliberation on all charges and all the defendants," the jury note said, "we have been able to come to verdicts on some defendants and some charges on others but not all."

"We, the jury, unanimously and emphatically agree that we have reached all verdicts that can possibly be reached, regardless of further deliberation. And we feel that in consideration of all concerned we should make the court aware of this."

Judge Krentzman told the six men and six women in the jury that the five-month-long trial "has been expensive in time and effort and money" and they should continue deliberations for an unspecified period of time. He sent them back for further deliberations. The jurors retired for the night at 5:30 o'clock.