

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Robert d'Hemecourt & Cecil Warren

COLLECTION: 4700.1181

IDENTIFICATION: Gillis Long supporters

INTERVIEWER: Gary Huey

PROJECT: Gillis Long

INTERVIEW DATES: 8/15/86

FOCUS DATES: 1970s - 1980s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1725

d'Hemecourt meeting Gillis Long in 1977; reasons that Long decided not to run for governor in 1979; reasons voters supported Long; Warren describes Long's energy and his compassion for his constituents; d'Hemecourt discusses the loyalty of Long's staff; Long's illness; Gillis' relationship with Russell Long while a student at LSU; d'Hemecourt describes Gillis' fund raising talent; Long's ability to make time to meet with people; Long's personal phone directory; arranging a luncheon with President Jimmy Carter to \$100,000 for Jesse Bankston; Henson Moore; arranging for Long to stay on a houseboat shortly before his death; monitoring his heart while staying on the houseboat; Long's involvement in the 1980 reapportionment; 1972 gubernatorial election; harm done to Gillis' political career because he was a Long; Gillis losing the 1963 gubernatorial election to John McKeithen; reaction of Louisianians to the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Gillis Long's moral convictions; Long running for Congress in 1972; Long's black supporters; d'Hemecourt discusses fishing trip that he took with Long and several friends; Long's relationship with his brother Floyd; Long's phone calls to his staff and friends to get their views on issues; Long's impact on the oil industry in Louisiana; Warren discusses his job as the director of Federal Affairs and International Affairs for Louisiana under Edwin Edwards; Economic Development Districts; Long's compassion for the poor; Long's opposition to deregulation of the airlines; Richard Nixon's obsession with the power of the presidency; Long's support for Walter Mondale for president in 1984; Gillis Long winning the Caucus Chairmanship by losing unanimous decision by two votes; Buddy Roemer; Long's friendship with Jesse Bankston; Long's opposition to Louisiana's open primary; Long's devotion to the Democratic Party; Long's seniority in Congress; Long's friendship with Lindy Boggs; Long and Boggs voting with the Black Caucus a majority of the time; the Long family's home life; Cathy Long; Kathy Long's chairmanship of the Special Olympics; Mardi Gras tea hosted by Gillis Long; d'Hemecourt's friendship with Long; discuss Long's doctor Arnold Lupin; Long's eating habits

Tape 1726

Gillis Long's death; Long's influence over his supporters; Long's decision not to run for governor in 1979 and returning the money in his campaign fund to the donors; d'Hemecourt running for city office in 1981 and Long's advice to him; Long's influence in the Edwards administration; Long gauging price charged at fund raisers to the wealth of the population of a particular district; diversity of Long's supporters; Carson Killen's experience and potential for being a good congressman; discusses prosecution of Edwin Edwards by John Volz, calls it a political prosecution; populism of Long and Edwards; Long's and Edwards's desire to win over their enemies B d'Hemecourt sees this as their weakness; congressional race between Joe McPherson and Ned Randolph; Long getting the endorsement of the *Times-Picayune* in his last race; Cathy Long running for congress; Long grooming Carson Killen to take over his seat; Killen doomed to lose the election

TAPES: 2 (T1725, T1726)**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 2 hours**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 54 pages**OTHER MATERIALS:** Transfer and copyright to Gary Huey**RESTRICTIONS:** None