

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Al From

**COLLECTION:** 4700.1199

**IDENTIFICATION:** Coworker and friend of Gillis Long.

**INTERVIEWER:** Gary Huey

**PROJECT:** Gillis Long

**INTERVIEW DATES:** July 31, 1987

**FOCUS DATES:** 1979-1980s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 1750, Side A**

From first met Gillis in 1979 when he was in the White House working as an assistant to Fred Pon[?]; Gillis wanted to talk to From about Democratic party; ran for subcommittee for Ed Muscin[?]; Gillis suffered a defeat in 1980; Dick Gephardt, Tim Worth and Jim Blanchard were Gillis supporters; formed group called Committee on Party Effectiveness; put together the Statement of the Democratic Principles on Economy that Gephardt wrote; Gillis wrote letter to a conference in 1982; made a deal in 1981 with Jim Hunt; Jerry Ferrara[?]; one vote against Gillis for caucus chair; yellow book; Gillis and From went up to New York to promote a blueprint for the party;

**Tape 1750, Side B**

Yellow book; Mondale; in 1983, Gillis went to strategy meeting in Washington and made speech, Gillis is in poor health, Chuck Shumer[?]; went to a trip in 1983 to Europe with the banking committee; talks about Gillis' good instinct; helped Gary Hart[?] in 1983; more on Mondale; Reagan; Gillis was already sick when From started working for him; Gillis' thoughts on the Democratic party; Gillis wanted the ability to develop broad coalitions; Gillis not that well known despite his role in Congress;

**Tape 1751, Side A**

Gillis would make phone calls at "ungodly hours"; Gillis didn't run in 1979; Gillis was a better politician inside than in the public; Gillis for civil rights and he had support from the blacks; Tom Foley[?]; whites did not vote as much for Gillis; Gillis really pushed himself during the last years he was alive; Gillis' heart attack

**TAPES:** 2 (T1750,T1751)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 2 hours

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 29 pages

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Transfer and copyright to Gary Huey

**RESTRICTIONS:** None