

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Joe Ticheli

COLLECTION: 4700.1178

IDENTIFICATION: Gillis Long's Administrative Assistant

INTERVIEWER: Gary Huey

PROJECT: Gillis Long

INTERVIEW DATES: August 14, 1986

FOCUS DATES: 1963-1986

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1717

Taking a job on Gillis Long's staff; Long's charisma; reasons Long ran for governor in 1963; poverty of Long's family; Gillis becoming LSU student government president and making contact with Russell Long; Earl Long giving Gillis' father a job at Central State Hospital; Russell Long getting Gillis job in Washington; Gillis' belief that he was heir-apparent to the Long legacy in Louisiana; relationship between Gillis and Russell Long; reasons Gillis decided not to run for governor in 1978; Gillis' fear of dying and dependence on others; Ticheli's duties; Gillis' need for praise; Gillis' ability to delegate duties among staff members; the two personas of Gillis Long – Washington persona and Louisiana persona; Long's intelligence; describes Long's heart condition; Long's relationship with his mother; patriotism of Gillis and Cathy Long; relationship between Gillis and his brother Floyd; Aunt Delia Sanders' impact on Gillis' career choice; discounts story of Gillis living in a chicken coop; impact of Gillis' diet as a child on his health as an adult; discusses Depression; Gillis' support for the expansion of the Rules Committee to insure passage of civil rights legislation; animosity between Gillis and Speedy Long after Speedy defeated him for congress; Gillis' admiration for and emulation of Earl Long; heroism of Gillis Long; Long's concern for minorities and the poor; conservative whites in Gillis' district; importance of constituency service

Tape 1718

Gubernatorial race of 1971 and reasons Gillis lost; Gillis' relationship with the Kennedy family; Governor Edwin Edwards redrawing the 8th Congressional District to insure Gillis' victory; power of the governor in Louisiana; Long's ability to attract loyal supporters; Long's honesty, morality and commitment to his principles; Don Quixote as a role model for Gillis Long; Gillis' religious beliefs and problems with fundamentalist groups; Long's dislike of hunting; describes Long's funeral; Richard Nixon; Gerald Ford; Jimmy Carter; Ronald Reagan equating running the government with shooting a movie; Long advocating diversification of Louisiana's economy; Long's farsightedness; Long as chairman of the Democratic Caucus and blueprint to revitalize the Democratic Party; Long's intellectual curiosity; Long's charisma; Long's idealism; Ticheli's

decision to stop working for Gillis Long and Long's attempts to convince him to stay; describes the last day he spent with Long; describes most embarrassing moment while working for Long

Tape 1719

Describes the resource book he created and maintained while working for Long; decision to remain on Cathy Long's staff after Gillis' death; Gillis Long's headstone

TAPES: 3 (T1717, T1718, T1719)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 2 hours, 15 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 86 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Transfer and copyright to Gary Huey

RESTRICTIONS: None