

Senator Huey Long's Friends Believe End Of His Louisiana Dictatorship Is Near

Colonel Sullivan, Foremost Foe Of The "Kingfish," Smiles As Ballot Box Incident Looks Like Choice Morsel To Long's Opponents



Ballot boxes opened for recount in New Orleans election precincts.

By WILLIAM G. GAUDET
Central Press Correspondent
NEW ORLEANS, La.—Louisiana's turbulent political situation has resolved itself into a deadlock between Senator Huey P. Long and Colonel John P. Sullivan. Each is intent upon hanging the political scalp of the other to his political party.

Though both are of the same purpose—the complete political extermination of the other—each is employing a different medium for the fulfillment of his goal.

While Senator Long levels a broadside of public attacks, Sullivan remains discreetly in the background. He sits quietly in his office here and smiles with every new charge.

Sullivan Says Little
Laughing, he will tell you in reference to answer any of Huey's charges that "I don't want to go all over this with Brother Huey again. Everybody knows him. Everybody knows me. Why should I say anything?"

It may be this cold indifference that so infuriates "the Kingfish," or it may be Long's recent setbacks here, including the federal appointments of several of Huey's avowed enemies in Louisiana. Whatever it is, Long has found it expedient to deluge the city of New Orleans with printed bulletins all of which contain bitter criticism of his enemies, and in particular, of Colonel Sullivan.

At one time Sullivan supported Long. That was in 1924 when Huey was first blossoming into politics. He acted as Huey's gubernatorial campaign. Colonel Sullivan did this, he claims, at the urgent insistence of the late Colonel Robert E. Frazier, Louisiana publisher. Later, within the same year, there was a reversal.

Two Versions
There are two versions of this break. Each is a direct contradiction of the other.

Huey says: "I threw Sullivan out of my organization."

Sullivan says: "I even threatened to leave Huey during the campaign. I remained only because of Colonel Frazier. The final break came when Colonel Frazier and myself realized the utter hopelessness of keeping Huey in office. It just couldn't be done."

Sullivan, rarely identified with Long outside of the state, is well known throughout Louisiana. He has been in politics about 20 years and was campaign manager for former Gov. John M. Parker. Nationally he is known as a former grand exalted ruler of the Elks.

At present Colonel Sullivan is smiling. He is happy. He earnestly believes, but won't say he is too astute to politicians—that the end of Longism is definitely within sight.

Why? The recounted ballot boxes which showed such startling discrepancies? Colonel Sullivan won't say. But he will ask you what the same man could believe a box was not stuffed that contained 500 favorable votes by the original count (by Long commissioners) and then on a public recount by unaffiliated citizens) showed but 177 with 215 blank ballots?

The ballots were from last November's general election and pertained to votes that were cast in six precincts on a state constitutional amendment.

Long's Foes Say—
That Long himself realizes the seriousness of the ballot box incident, his enemies contend, by pointing out that Huey did everything in his power to prevent that public recount. No one actually cast a vote to certain it was the Kingfish who attempted to quash the investigation, but that attempt was made is evident.

The first step in this direction was taken when Attorney General Gaston Porterie, supervised District Attorney Eugene Stanley. Later Porterie was expelled by the

state bar association. Then a grand jury attempted to return a "no true bill." Two judges refused to accept this decision. One of the jurors, James J. Colahan, stated publicly the grand jury reached its verdict without even an examination of the boxes. The affair reached a climax recently when the grand jury, after Louisiana's Governor, O. K. Allen, a long office holder, had declared martial law, was summarily discharged without date by Judge Scherbaum.

Probe Is Coming
Surely, Huey's enemies say, he is not concerned with the welfare of election commissioners who would be the ones to suffer as the result of the exposure. O. K. Allen could readily pardon them, they point out. The reason, then, for his concern, they say, is that Long has his eye on the United States senatorial investigation which renews here in October.

Huey, however, nonchalantly dismisses the ballot box incident. He charges that "Sullivan's gang" tampered with them.

Senator Long's enemies intimate that the petition of the grand jury to Governor Allen asking that the ballot boxes be destroyed, because they had lost their value as evidence, and the proclamation of the Governor refusing to destroy them were written by the same author—Huey Long.

The point they make is that Huey was already prepared for the Governor's proclamation by having Allen state, before the recount, that the boxes had lost their value as evidence. The Governor did this, they say, because he knew he couldn't destroy the ballot boxes.

The boxes did show a great difference in the count. Huey charged they had lost their legal value because they had been "tampered with."

Until now Long has had the lion's share of the victories in Louisiana politics. Recently significant changes are becoming apparent on the political horizon. Per-

haps Colonel Sullivan is right. Maybe the crash of the political empire of Senator Huey P. Long is near at hand.

Yet, once before, as Governor, Long's empire, then just in the building, was perhaps menaced that as seriously. And Huey emerged the victor!

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missive along with notations as to the ability and experience of each, Mr. Jordan said.

The newly organized Birmingham Retail Merchants Association will work hand-in-hand with the NRA committee in the campaign, according to Alfred J. LaBelle, president. Elimination of unfair business practices and unjust competition will be one of the principal functions of the association, he said.

Right-o
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