

Ex-Sen. Long Feared Poison

4/21/73
CLARKSVILLE, Mo., April 20, (UPI)—The personal secretary of the late Sen. Edward V. Long has reported he told her the night of his death Nov. 8 that he believed he had been poisoned by candy which came to him in the mail, authorities said today.

Thomas Osborne, named special prosecutor in the case, said investigators were taking "very seriously" the story of Helen Dunlop, Long's secretary and companion.

"We are conducting a full and complete investigation to find out exactly what happened," Osborne said.

"We want to wait until we get all the evidence we can before any charges are filed. If no charges are filed we will make a full public statement why."

As Miss Dunlop's story became known today Long's widow, Florence, filed a \$3.25 million alienation of affections suit against the secretary.

Mrs. Long charged Miss Dunlop "wilfully and wrongfully during the years 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971, and years before and after said date, did carry on criminal conversation and carnally know Edward V. Long."

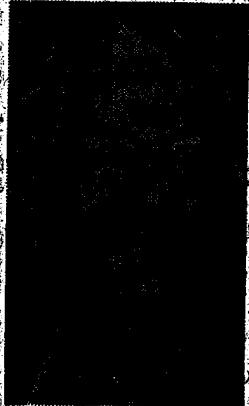
Mrs. Long sought \$2.25 million in actual damages and \$1 million in punitive damages.

Mrs. Long and the late senator were separated early last year. She filed for separate maintenance in June, 1972. He rewrote his will shortly before his death, leaving Mrs. Long and their only child, Mrs. Ann Miller, only \$10 each.

Mrs. Long has also filed a suit seeking \$2.1 million from Long's estate, charging Miss Dunlop forged Long's signature on documents.

Long served as U.S. Senator from Missouri from 1960 to 1968, when he was defeated in the Democratic primary by Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton. Long's will, rewritten only weeks before his death, named Miss Dunlop executrix of his estate, valued at between \$770,000 and \$2.3 million and left in trust for his 5-year-old granddaughter.

Long's death at the age of



SEN. EDWARD V. LONG
... \$10 for his widow

... was attributed at the time to natural causes. Osborne said Miss Dunlop did not come forward with her story until about a month ago—after a legal battle broke out over Long's estate.

She told authorities that last Nov. 8 a box of candy arrived at Brookhill, the Long estate near Clarksville. It was

accompanied by the card of a Clayton, Mo., businessman, she said, and she typed out a routine note of thanks.

She noticed the box had been opened Nov. 5, she said. She dined with Long Nov. 8, she said, and later he telephoned her that he was ill.

The secretary said she went to Long's home and found him sitting in a chair. He told her he thought he had been poisoned by the candy, she said.

She quoted him as saying that his legs were numb when he arose to brush his teeth to get rid of a bitter taste in his mouth. Just before he died, she said, he told her that his arms also were numb.

No box of candy was found later in the Long home, Osborne said. But he added that authorities are investigating a break-in at the Long home Nov. 8, two days after Long's death. Only a few items were taken, Osborne said, and the burglary motive may have been to recover the candy.

The man whose card accompanied the box has been located and denied sending it, Osborne said. He said he was not connected with the firm listed on the card at the time the candy was sent.

The FBI and the Missouri Highway Patrol are taking part in the investigation, it was revealed.