

Oblivion for Sen. Long?

Senators Are Talking of Deposing Louisianan As Democratic Whip and Finance Chairman

By Drew Pearson

LOUISIANA'S ruffled, likeable Sen. Russell Long, who approaches people with all the appeal of a puppy dog with tail wagging, has started to slip into political oblivion on the heels of the man he tried to save—Tom Dodd.

He will have a hard time getting re-elected in Louisiana if Gov. John McKeithen runs against him. And several Senators, angry over Long's antics, are talking about deposing him not only as Democratic Whip but as Senate Finance Committee chairman. They have urged Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.), who has announced his intention not to run for re-election, to remain in the Senate and take over the chairmanship.

Committee members have offered to lead a rebellion against Long if Smathers will remain.

Long fought hard to crash the Senate's inner circle, which had barred his fiery and flamboyant father, and the oil crowd finally helped him become the Democratic Whip. He was able to offer his colleagues oil campaign funds at the same time he was soliciting their votes to clinch the job.

Among others, he telephoned Sen. Dodd's office to say he had someone who admired Dodd's record and wanted to make a \$1500 contribution. Dodd beat it over to Long's office with unaccustomed haste.

Long has candidly confessed to us that he passed out a few oil contributions while he was running for Whip.

"Shucks," he said, "that's the name of the game."

Long also paid personal calls on every Democratic Senator save his two opponents—John Pastore of Rhode Island and Mike Monroney of Oklahoma.

His greatest sacrifice, he said in recounting his campaign to be elected Demo-

cratic Whip, was giving his father's old Senate desk to Sen. Olin Johnston (D-S.C.). The desk had once belonged to another famous Senator from South Carolina, John C. Calhoun, and Johnston coveted the privilege of inheriting it.

Long had previously denied the desk to Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), but with the Whip's job at stake, Long surrendered the desk for the sake of Johnston's vote. Recalled Long: "I said to myself,

Please forgive me, Daddy, but this time I'm going for broke." Now Long may lose all he fought so hard to win. Other Senators don't seem to understand that Long doesn't really mean everything he says on the Senate floor. After he tried bitterly to stop Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) from reading Dodd's letter to Vice President Lyndon Johnson, Long ambled up to Percy and explained jovially: "The letter was devastating."

Dodd has claimed everyone understood his testimonial dinners were intended strictly for his benefit. He has called upon the Senate Ethics Committee to name one person who thought the affairs were political. Yet in the letter Dodd thanked Lyndon Johnson for agreeing to participate in an affair "to kick off my campaign."

Long also confided to Percy: "Dodd's attorneys are no blankety-blank good." Later, Long praised the same attorneys on the Senate floor.

Thus gyrates the junior Senator from Louisiana, who had become one of the most powerful members of the Senate; but who, beginning with his prolonged and insistent battle for a \$1 tax set aside to finance campaign

funds, is in danger of losing his place of power.

Correction

OUR RECENT REPORT that Gen. David Sarnoff, chairman of RCA, was seen dining with Sen. Tom Dodd at the Regency Hotel in New York just before the Dodd censure debate opened, was a case of mistaken identity. It was not Gen. Sarnoff who dined with Sen. Dodd. Sarnoff is an old friend of the Senator's but has not seen him for about a year. We regret the error.

Under the Dome

MOST CONGRESSIONAL offices look like rogues galleries with the faces of prominent politicians glaring over their autographs from the walls. An exception is the office of Rep. James Fulton (R-Pa.), whose walls are hung with rare paintings, both originals and reproductions. Antique vases and colonial statuary stand where most Congressmen keep their political trophies. Fulton, following law school, attended the Carnegie School of Fine Arts.

The sports car with license plate REP-007, which sticks close to Capitol Hill, is not driven by James Bond but by Rep. Brock Adams (D-Wash.)

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