

TED OUSTS LONG AS NO. 2 SENATOR

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts unseated Louisiana's Russell B. Long today as the assistant Democratic leader of the Senate.

Kennedy's come-from-behind victory could help to propel him along the road to the White House and gives Democratic liberals a greater voice in the Senate's high command.

AT A CONFERENCE OF Democratic senators just before the start of the 91st Congress, Kennedy outpolled Long by a vote of 31 to 26, senators reported.

The closed-door conference of Democratic senators was still in progress when a number of senators came out and passed the word to newsmen that Kennedy won on the secret ballot.

Maryland's Joseph D. Tydings yesterday made an unqualified prediction that Kennedy would win. Important senators giving Kennedy late endorsements included Albert Gore of Tennessee, Fred Harris of Oklahoma, Daniel K. Inouye and Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut.

THE 36-YEAR-OLD Massachusetts senator, last of the Kennedy brothers, had said that he didn't know how he would fare at the Democratic conference held just before the opening of the 91st Congress.

Long, the assistant Democratic leader—

or party whip—since 1965, also had said he had the support to win reelection.

Long, also chairman of the powerful Senate finance committee, had the advantage of an early start in lining up commitments as well as the apparently solid support of his Southern colleagues.

KENNEDY'S CANDIDACY was seen by some as a rallying point for liberals but personal relationships entwined with political pressures and ideologies blurred it as a liberal-conservative contest.

A veteran Southern Democrat supporting Long said privately he thought Kennedy might well have swept to victory had he not waited until last Monday to announce his candidacy.

In getting into the race, Kennedy, who entered the Senate in 1962, said that with a Republican taking over the White House the Democrats in Congress have an obligation "to present the best possible programs in keeping with our historic role as the party of progress and change in the United States."

LONG, A 20-YEAR Senate veteran, said the "super liberals" were behind Kennedy's move to topple him as whip.

There were no challenges to reelection of Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana as the

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Kennedy--

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Democratic leader and Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia as secretary of the Democratic conference, the No. 2 leadership post.

Many of Kennedy's colleagues were surprised and mystified when he decided to go after it. Some saw in it a move toward trying to build himself up for a presidential race in 1972; others speculated that he hopes to make his career in the Senate, eventually aiming to succeed Mansfield as leader.



SEN. RUSSELL B. LONG

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