

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: John Breaux

COLLECTION: 4700.1201

IDENTIFICATION: Louisiana Representative and Senator who knew Gillis Long.

INTERVIEWER: Gary Huey

PROJECT: Gillis Long

INTERVIEW DATES: August 3, 1987

FOCUS DATES: 1960s-1980s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1753, Side A

Breaux met Gillis Long in the late 1960s; at that time, Gillis was running for governor and Breaux was working for Edwin Edwards; Gillis had a reputation as an aggressive political figure; Bennett Johnston; Breaux and Long ran for Congress in 1972, running in adjoining districts; Breaux believes that Long lost in 1971 to Johnston and Edwards because people might have been looking for a young face; Long's name helped him out in that he needed no introduction and it gave him instant media recognition; Long was excellent at fund-raising; Long was able to get money from people that didn't philosophically agree with him; Breaux feels that Gillis Long should get credit for his involvement in the Democratic Leadership Council and in trying to get elected officials involved in party politics; Gillis Long's weakness was that all he did and thought about was politics; O'Neill; Jim Wright; Long was practically running the Rules Committee; one wonders why Gillis Long was not better known; Tom Foley; Tony Prelo[?]; Long had a good network of people; Howard Hughes; Long provided good constituent services; Long had a difficult district; Gillis overworked himself;

TAPES: 1 (T1753)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 20 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Transfer and copyright to Gary Huey

RESTRICTIONS: None