

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Wayne Thevenot

COLLECTION: 4700.1196

IDENTIFICATION: Worked with Gillis long in the 1980s, was Gillis' campaign manager at one time

INTERVIEWER: Gary Huey

PROJECT: Gillis Long

INTERVIEW DATES: July 30, 1987

FOCUS DATES: 1963-1980s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1746, Side A

Gillis' reputation in Washington; Tip O'Neill; Gillis had a lot of influence in Washington; Gillis was on the Rules Committee; Dick Bolling; Claude Pepper; Rules Committee; Thevenot thinks that Gillis might have moved up through the leadership; Gillis was the chairman of the Caucus; bringing the Democrats back to the center; National Legislative Education Foundation; Gillis thought that in Congress, his mission was to get things done and not necessarily be just a Congressman; Thevenot first met Gillis in at LSU in 1963 as a graduate student in political science; Russell Long; Thevenot wrote down Gillis' ideas and notes on legal pads; 1962 campaign; how the Long name helped and hurt Gillis;

Tape 1746, Side B

Musicians at Marksville High School; Gillis as a stump speaker; Gillis was never good with humor, but he loved humor itself; Long jokes; Hughes; Kathy Long; Bob Mayhew; Herman Kohlmeyer; Gillis defeated by Speedy Long in 1964; Gillis brought his knowledge of the business world into the political world; Gillis' compassion for poor people; Gillis and Thevenot took some trips together;

Tape 1747, Side A

Gillis used Thevenot as a sounding board for new ideas; Gillis had many, many friends; fishing trips; Easy Money Littleton; Gillis' last couple of years were quite sad; 1984 race; Gillis was a great fund-raiser; Gillis' weaknesses as a politician; Russell Long; Dick Bolling;

Tape 1747, Side B

Gillis' deteriorating health

TAPES: 2 (T1746, T1747)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 2 hours

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 40 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Transfer and copyright to Gary Huey

RESTRICTIONS: None