

Long Yells to Newsmen From Hospital Window

Governor Says He's Not Crazy

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Louisiana Gov. Earl Long shouted from his hospital window to four Louisiana newsmen Sunday night: "I'm no more crazy than you are."

"They led me in here in handcuffs . . . they wanted to kill the loan shark bill . . . they wanted to pass the sales tax . . . they wanted to kill my election bill."

Long made the comments after James McLean, Louisiana capitol correspondent for the Associated Press, and Mrs. Margaret Dixon, managing editor of the Baton Rouge, La., Morning Advocate, walked to within 30 feet of the governor's second story room in the John Sealy clinic and yelled at him.

Mrs. Dixon called, "Hi, governor!" McLean hollered, "Hey, Earl!"

Long, who had his back to the window, apparently talking to an attendant, heard them and asked who it was. They identified themselves and he answered with, "I'm no more crazy than you are."

It was the first time any newsman had talked face-to-face with the governor since he was brought here May 30. Emile Comar of the New Orleans States and Bill Lynch of The Shreveport, La., Times, were with Mrs. Dixon and McLean.

Meanwhile, the governor's family began drafting plans for a possible challenge to his court bid here Monday for freedom from a Texas mental clinic.

Mrs. Long said he participated in the pre-trial conference but doesn't plan to participate in the hearing. She said she hopes she won't be called as a witness.

Long's request for the hearing claimed he was drugged, tied and kidnaped from his mansion in Baton Rouge and forced against his will into a psychiatric clinic here.

In a taped interview broadcast Sunday over station KTBS-TV in Shreveport, La., Gov. Long charged he was "captured" and forced into a Texas mental clinic by "a couple of bone crushers."

"One weighed 290, one 180," Long said.

"There never has been a man brutalized and handled—governor or no governor—like I've been handled," he said.

Long said he was committed by people who claimed they wanted to help him.

But "they really want to run for governor themselves," Long said. He named Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), his nephew; Mrs. Blance Long, his wife; and Ray Huffit, Louisiana adjutant general.

The 63-year-old governor also:

1. Predicted he would win his court hearing in Galveston.

2. Served notice he would call a special session of the legislature to enact his pet bills that died while he was committed.

3. Called his wife "the most jealous woman in Louisiana."

Long said "30 people" took him out of the mansion "by force."

"They loaded me into an ambulance, told me I was going to Ochsner's Clinic (New Orleans), that my wife would be waiting, and Russell (Long), and other friends," Long said.

The governor said he asked why they were in the air so long. He was told bad weather forced them to fly to Galveston.

"They took my britches off, I was only left with my undershirt, a little mesh white shirt. No shoes, no pants, no money, not even a fingernail file."

"I'm here (hospitalized) under the domination of colored people," Long said. "(They) tell you when to get up and go to bed, when to smile and not to smile . . ."

". . . there are some awful nice white nurses and some good doctors . . . (but) it's the same as jail . . . (there are) screens here and if you tried to go through them, you'd leave your brains hanging on them . . . they lock them with locks every night . . ."

Meanwhile, Long's three court-appointed attorneys said the issue Monday was whether he is held against his will in the hospital. They indicated Long will be their only witness.