

Long Opens Battle for Freedom

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana Gov. Earl K. Long, convinced he belongs back in his office in the State Capitol instead of in a mental hospital, made arrangements Saturday to wage a legal battle for his freedom.

Attorney Theo Cangelosi, an old friend of the governor's and legal advisor for many years, said he had agreed to retain legal counsel for Long.

Cangelosi, who made the statement after a meeting with Long at Southeast Louisiana State (Mental) Hospital, would not elaborate except to say the names of Long's attorneys would be announced Monday or Tuesday.

State Hospital Director Jesse Bankston sat in on the conference.

Reports circulating in the State Capitol say Long will try for freedom by applying for a writ of habeas corpus.

A bulletin issued during mid-morning said Long "spent a restful night and was getting along well."

State police and sheriff's deputies overpowered the fighting and cursing governor Thursday night and rushed him to the Mandeville hospital on a court order. Dr. Chester Williams, coroner for East Baton Rouge Parish (county) and a psychiatrist examined Long and said he suffered from paranoid schizophrenia — delusions of persecution.

Long's confinement at Mandeville came just a few hours after he slipped out of Ochsner Foundation Hospital in New Orleans. He ended a bitter legal battle with members of his family by agreeing to voluntary treatment at Ochsner.

The agreement gained him release from a 19-day stay in a psychiatric ward of a Galveston, Texas, hospital, where he was flown May 30 after a flareup during a legislative committee meeting.