

Gillis Long

May 25, 1976

Telephone Conversation - 8:30 a.m.

He called to tell me that he'd take me with him over the Fourth of July, that he had no competition in the election, that he was going to "break in" a new staff person and take another staffer with him and that "I think you'll find it interesting." He was so enthusiastic, despite the early hour, that I couldn't have refused if I had wanted to.

"I have the most interesting district in the United States. It's a micro-cosm of the state of Louisiana. It has some of North Louisiana and some of South Louisiana. It has the redneck, hill country where I come from and it has Acadia. It has farming, sugar and it has an industrial strip near Baton Rouge. It has the biggest cock fighting area in the world, the largest camp meeting in the world, the best cooking in the world. We took a poll a while ago and we asked people what they thought the greatest need in the country was. Twenty-five percent said solve inflation, twenty-five percent said solve unemployment and five percent said more moral uplift--ten percent in the North and zero percent in the South wanted moral uplift. I guess the best way to contrast the north and the south is to say that the north is English and the south is French; the north is protestant and the south is catholic; the north is dry and the south is wet; the north is hilly and the south is flat; the north is dry in whiskey, the south is wet in whiskey; the northerners are thin as a rail, the southerners are fat and jolly. My problem is how I'm able to walk between these two groups that are ethnically, regionally and culturally different."

"It looks like I'm not going to have any competition this year. I've got the two of the country's biggest right wing nuts in my district. John Rarick

has decided not to run against me. And Kent Courtney has decided to try. He'll get 20-25% of the vote. Those people will vote against me no matter what because of my progressive views or because of my family. But that's all he'll get."

Ginny Kintz: 1-202-225-4296 (his secretary).

He outlined trip - Alexandria, Mansura, Cottonport, Oakdale, Pentacostal Camp Meeting, Fishing, New Orleans.