

Long Reaches People Through Tape Recorder

BATON ROUGE, La. (UPI) — Gov. Earl K. Long sent a tape recorded speech out of a mental hospital Wednesday night and asked the people of Louisiana to "pray" that he be released on Friday.

The statement by the governor was broadcast Wednesday night over radio station WNOE in New Orleans.

Long gave his assurance that he "wouldn't hurt anybody" if he is released from Southeastern Hospital in Mandeville, La., where he is confined as a schizophrenic paranoid.

He is scheduled to get a hearing at 10 a.m. Friday in Covington, La., before District Judge Robert D. Jones on whether he was illegally confined on a commitment warrant signed by his wife—now hiding someplace outside Louisiana.

The broadcast was calculated to insure a tremendous crowd Friday at the Covington Junior High School which has been converted into a courthouse and where the session will be held on a basketball court.

Long meandered in his talk.

"Our hospitals are not only the best in the nation, they are the best in the universe," he said. "I am for the teachers' raise but I don't want to get their salaries up to where they are out of line with other people."