

Death of Huey Long, Arch Foe of Majors, May Develop Louisiana Into Big Threat

HOUSTON, Texas, Sept. 13 (UP).—The assassination of Senator Huey P. Long may have repercussions in the Texas oil industry, it is believed here. The reaction depends upon the course adopted by the faction succeeding the slain Kingfish as ruler of Louisiana, whether that faction will curtail or let down the bars to oil production.

Oilmen believe that coastal Louisiana barely has been touched by development; as an oil-producing area, and should restriction be relaxed, the oil price structure would be in danger. Senator Long followed closely oil de-

velopment in Louisiana. He was a foe of the big oil interests and several years ago greatly reduced production, then estimated at 250,000 barrels daily. This action for a time almost brought complete abandonment of wildcatting and drilling.

In recent months, however, oil operators, chafing under Texas proration restrictions, have made moves toward the Louisiana coastal area. Production which had dropped to approximately 69,000 barrels now is up to 80,000 barrels daily.

If Long's successors relax reins on oil production, Texas operators say, a swift and thorough exploration campaign in Louisiana may be expected. They point to development of the Rodessa field in Northwest Louisiana as an example of what may follow widespread operations in that State. The Louisiana Conservation Commission has limited Rodessa wells to allowables of 1,750 barrels daily, while sixty miles westward, operators, under Texas proration laws, are limited to around 25 barrels per well daily.

Should conservation efforts in Louisiana be abandoned, chaos which followed the discovery of the East Texas field again may bring price wars and threats of Federal control which national oil leaders are combating.