Huey Long Shot by Assassin in Louisiana Statehouse

Bodyguards Kill Assailant at Once With 40 Bullets

Kingfish Wounded in Abdomen and His Condition Is Critical; Pierced as He Walks From House Session

BATON ROUGE, La., Sept. 9 (Monday) (UP).—An operation was performed on Senator Huey P. Long at 12:15 a.m. Monday in an effort to save his life. No information was given by physicians as to the purpose of the operation.

BATON ROUGE, La., Sept. 8 (AP).—Senator Huey P. Long was shot and wounded in the abdomen in the statehouse Sunday night and his assassin, Dr. C. A. Weiss Jr., 30, Baton Rouge eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, was riddled with bullets and killed.

Long walked stumblingly by down the steps from the first floor to the basement, holding his hands to his side, and was taken to Our Lady of the Lake Hospital where Dr. Arthur Vidrine said his condition is critical. The bullet entered the right side of his abdomen and ranged through the body, emerging on the back side.

Long had just left the House of Representatives where he was directing the enactment of legislation in a special session and was passing in a corridor near the Governor's office when the shooting took place.

Dr. Weiss, who was standing near the wall, suddenly drew a .32 pistol from his shirt front, pressed it toward Long's abdomen and fired just as John B. Fournet, a Justice of the State Supreme Court, grabbed the gun and deflected it.

Bodyguards Open Fire.

Paul Votier, Murphy Rhoden and other bodyguards with Long immediately opened fire with automatic pistols. Weiss, his body, punctured many times, slumped face down on the floor. He was killed immediately.

Long, holding his hands to his side, staggered down the basement steps where he met James O'Conner Jr., a member of the Public Service Commission. O'Conner took him to a hospital.

Bodyguards said Long was probably saved from instant death because Dr. Weiss' automatic jammed after the first shot was fired.

Weiss' body lay in the corridor for more than an hour as Dr. T. B. Bird, parish coroner, viewed it and had photographs taken of it.

The crowds were just leaving the House as it adjourned until Monday when the firing rang through the ornate main floor of the thirty-three-story statehouse Long built.

Given Blood Transfusion.

Women screamed and men cried out as scores pressed pellmell to get back into the House chamber and clung to the wall to escape wildly flying bullets.

The hospital where Long was taken is across a small lake from the Capitol. Hundreds of automobiles gathered near the hospital and blocked the highways as policemen shouted orders.

Lieut. Gov. James A. Noe telephoned Mrs. Long to come to Baton Rouge. Gov. O. K. Allen arrived at the hospital in a short time.

Long was given a blood transfusion at 11 p.m. Lieutenant Governor Noe's blood was used.

Long was conscious as physicians

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administration, to third reading by rule suspension and adjourned until Monday when the shooting occurred.

The staccato report of pistol and machine gun bullets rang through the ornate floors of the Capitol.

Pistols flashed in scores of hands but the shooting occurred so quickly that many persons in other parts of the thirty-three-story Statehouse were unaware of the shooting until persons rushed up and down telling of it.

A great crowd immediately collected around the dead man, who lay face downward, blood pouring from numerous wounds. Guards quickly formed around him and pushed the curious out of the building. They later started clearing persons out of the entire Capitol.

An airplane was chartered to fly Dr. Urban Maes, surgeon attached to the Louisiana State University medical staff, to Baton Rouge for consultation.

Started as Backdoor Salesman.

Senator Long, high priest of share-the-wealth and one of the most outspoken characters in American public life, rose rapidly from a backdoor lard compound salesman to become the Kingfish of Louisiana and virtual dictator of the State.

He had many enemies, engaged in innumerable fist fights with public officials and newspapermen and was branded by his brothers—all of whom were at odds with him—as a vain, audacious demagogue without parallel in Louisiana political history.

His bodyguards became a part of his entourage wherever he went, to football games political conventions and legislative sessions both at Washington and Baton Rouge.

Following an unsuccessful attempt to impeach him, he once publicly boasted: "I can buy legislators like sacks of potatoes."

Likes His Filibusters.

At 35 he was the youngest Governor Louisiana ever had. He was its United States Senator at 39 and in the recent session engaged in two sensational filibusters to forestall voting and adjournment. In June he spoke for 15 hours and 32 minutes, discussing everything from the ideal recipe for roquefort cheese-salad dressing to his battles with Postmaster General James J. Farley.

Recently at New York Long scathingly denounced President Roosevelt and Former President Hoover as political bedmates and announced "Huey Long is your next President" if either of them were nominated. He said he would head a liberal ticket.

When the late President Calvin Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge met him in New Orleans in 1930 Long indicated his presidential ambitions when he asked: "Are the Hoovers good housekeepers?"

"I guess they are," answered Coolidge, puzzled.

"Well," replied the Kingfish, "when I was elected Governor I found the executive mansion in such rotten shape I had to tear it down and rebuild. It started a hell of a row.

"When I'm elected President, I don't want to have to rebuild the White House."

Twice Probed by Senate.

The Kingfish's initial act in the Senate in 1932 was to break the long-standing rule against smoking. He became such a conspicuous member of that body that a standing joke classified as the forgotten man the other Senator from Louisiana.

Twice Senate committees came to New Orleans and investigated charges of graft, corruption and illegality in Long's methods of conducting State politics.

Long was credited with having one of the most sparkling and resourceful minds in the Nation.

"There may be smarter people than me," he once declared, "but they ain't in Louisiana."

He was addicted to using poor grammar in his speech, although he was one of the most brilliant graduates of the Tulane University law school. He borrowed $400 for his tuition and completed a three-year law course in nine months.

Huey is the Constitution.

As Governor of Louisiana he revolutionized State Government. He became the Constitution, according to his own pronouncements, shuffled the Legislature like a pack of cards; started a wholesale migration of his enemies from the capital, and an immigration of Long supporters.

Senators Laughed at Threat.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 (AP).—News of the attempted assassination of Senator Huey Long startled the capital Sunday night, with officials recalling instantly that only a month ago he told the Senate a plot to kill him was afoot.

Until details of the shooting and his condition were known, officials and political leaders had little to say. Many of them at the time of the Senate speech had taken Long's fears lightly. They were well aware, however, that he almost constantly took precautions of having bodyguards in the vicinity when he appeared in public.

Whether the Department of Justice could or would take any action in the shooting was conjectural.

In the Aug. 9 speech the Louisianan took the floor during a dull afternoon and said two of his supporters had sat in a hotel room in New Orleans adjoining an apartment were the reported plot was discussed. Some Senators laughed while others listened closely.

Legislators Attended.

He read reports written by two supporters saying conferences were held July 22 and 24 in a New Orleans hotel at which there was an asserted threat made to shoot him on the floor of the Senate.

Attending th econferences at various times, he said, were members of the House from Louisiana, and various political leaders who were discussing possible candidates for Governor to oppose the Long ticket.

The name of the person making the alleged threat to kill was never identified. Long described how the voice told of the desirability of going to Washington and shooting.

This story of a plan reminded Senators of his bodyguards, some of whom were believed at times to have taken a place in the gallery while the Senator was on the floor.

Sergeant at arms Chesley Jurney at one time publicly searched a man he believed to be a Long bodyguard, but was in error in believing the man carried a gun.

Didn't Take It Seriously.

Long always had male companions with him even at times in office when he was interviewed by newspapermen. They accompanied him on his occasional visits to night clubs.

As to the purported plot discussed in New Orleans in July, Long evidently did not take it seriously at the time. He jokingly told the Senate that in one place, as he read from his memoranda on the meeting. "Here is where I got a new lease on life."

At that point the memorandum disclosed some individual declaring it impracticable to kill Long.

The Senator said the record of the meeting was taken by a brother of his secretary and by a man Long identified as a secretary of the Louisiana State Senate. These men, he contended, had listened to the conferences over a dictaphone planted in the hotel room. Among those named as present at one conference was T. Semmes Walmsley, Mayor of New Orleans and enemy of the Senator. Walmsley was not named as on hand at the conference in which the alleged voice threatened to shoot Long.

Long

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worked over him. When told by Dr. Virdine his wound would have to be cleaned, he said: "Go ahead and clean it!"

Long's last words before he was shot, just after the House had adjourned, were: "Be here in the morning, boys."

The shot from Dr. Weiss' gun almost cut short his words.

Physicians were making a check to determine if the bullet which pierced Long was poisoned.

Dr. Weiss is a son-in-law of Judge B. H. Pavy of Opelousas, a bitter Long political enemy. A bill in the present special session would take Judge Pavy's parish out of its present judicial district and place it in another one.

When told of her son's death, Mrs. Weiss, said: "Oh, God; we've been opposed to Long, but I did not think he would do a thing like that."

There was something ominous in the air tonight as the House convened at 8:30 p.m. Sergeant at Arms A. J. Thomas and State police carefully checked every person admitted on the floor of the House and no one was admitted except members of the Legislature, members of the press and State officials and friends of officials and legislators personally vouched for.

Long Amuses Galleries.

Senator Long himself did not appear until the session had been under way half an hour. Arriving in high good humor, he gleefully posed for a photographer and at one time created great amusement for those packed in the House galleries by making special poses for the cameraman.

The shots came a minute after Long walked from the speaker's dais through a side door into the corridor leading in front of the Governor's office.

As the shots began there was little excitement in the House chamber. Everyone thought it was firecrackers. An instant later crowds from the corridor began running back into the House and scattering. The shots stopped. The crowd, still thinking they were only firecrackers, quieted, but immediately another volley sounded and that time there was more excitement. Members of the Legislature crowded into the rooms adjoining the speaker's dais and protected themselves behind the thick stone walls.

It was five minutes before the crowds in the corridors were convinced that someone had been shot.

The attack on the Senator occurred shortly after the House had convened for its second night's meeting of the seventh special legislative session.

Long had just left the House of Representatives where he was directing a new batch of bills in the special session of the Legislature when he was shot as he walked in a corridor near the Governor's office.

Bodyguards opened fire with a submachine gun and riddled the man with bullets. The man was left dying on the floor.

A spectator in the basement said Long come down the flight of stairs from the first floor with blood streaming from his mouth, and walked slowly around the floor past the restaurant and out a back door.

Shot in Narrow Corridor.

The House had just sent Long's bills, including those attacking Roosevelt's