

FIGHT ON SANDERS RENEWED BY LONG IN SPICY LETTER

Charges by Inference 3 Per Cent Severance Tax Is Opposed.

Baton Rouge, La., June 13.—Huey P. Long of Shreveport, chairman of the state public service commission, in a circular letter placed upon the desks of members of the Legislature tonight, again attacked former Governor J. Y. Sanders as a corporation lobbyist, and charged by inference that Mr. Sanders is seeking to defeat the 3 per cent severance tax bill now pending in the House of Representatives. Mr. Long's letter follows:

"Without attempting to deny, answer or explain one single statement or fact contained in my letter to the Legislature. Mr. J. Y. Sanders, creator of the game wardens and author of more schemes for public extravagance and high taxes than any twenty ordinary public men, has made a bid for and is now seeking the everlasting gratitude of his corporate benefactors and employers with a voluminous attack against me. As is usual with a guilty conscience, instead of denying the well known facts or replying to them, the gentleman resorted to the age old trickster plan of evasion and abuse. He no doubt feels that he has brought smiles in the camp of the invisible empire of corporate government, behind whose silken veil he is so well known and so well loved for what he already has done and is now trying to do for their benefit and liking.

BIG SUMS INVOLVED

"But Mr. Sanders does not deny being involved in the transaction of the Ohio Oil Company, branch of the Standard Oil Company; he does not deny that he has already coined hundreds of thousands of dollars out of his corporate oil affiliation, nor does the gentleman deny that he is yet expecting a great deal more money out of the transaction. It was after this transaction and blending of interests that Mr. Sanders led the fight or Standard Oil contentions on the floor of the Constitutional Convention when that cry rang out: 'They are demanding their pound of flesh.' He does not deny that he is the originator and promoter of that late tax on wagons, huggies and motor vehicles by which scheme a tax of over \$5,000,000 per year was saddled on the backs of mostly poor people. He does not deny that he supported every salary raise offered in the Constitutional Convention, nor does he deny

being the creator of the game wardens and a leading supporter of the act creating the board of affairs.

"Faced down with facts, such as we set forth in our letter, it is clear that Mr. Sanders is handy and helping to raise the poor people's taxes and to spend their money in reckless political maneuvering, but, when the 3 per cent severance tax fight develops to properly tax the oil trust, Mr. Sanders puts on the purple coat and says that tax raising must stop. The gentleman is yet at the Legislature. In his statement he takes the position that one minute he acts as a hired attorney (not in court) of some corporation, but that the next minute his corporate robe is cast aside, the lobbyist's mantle slides from his shoulders, Cain is changed into Abel, and Mr. Sanders becomes a conscience-stricken individual, breathing the deep cause of the state with a heavy laden heart. Who does he think is simple enough to believe such an explanation? So much for Mr. Sanders as to whom I warn, as I have warned: 'Ephraim is joined to idols; let him alone.'

WOULD BE ASTOUNDED

"It has become the policy of the vested corporate interests, particularly the Standard Oil Company and its alliances, to gather into friendly principal and subordinate camps all the men of this state who happen to have or who hereafter achieve a standing of public influence. With their thousand handed ramifications they are attempting to close the cordon and dragnet over the throats of our people and thwart our escape by taking away all power of defense. You would be astounded to know all whom they have directly or indirectly chained to their cause and calling.

"If the powerful corporate government succeeds in the future, particularly the near future, as it has in the past, whatever catastrophe we may some day fear or foresee will come upon the people with such short notice that, in seeking a defender, they may embrace a hireling of the very marauder by whom they are threatened.

"This state has been beguiled of many of its millions in various devices and contrivances. A corporate lobby has often been able to frustrate plans of the people. The most worthy of you have been so blinded in the smoke screen and corporate maze that you have been unable to detect just what was the proper course out of the orgy.

"Brace up and fight now, Mr. Legislator. There is much good that you may yet do. A faithful handful can do much. Have we not, to some small extent, shown that the consistent and steady work of only one man can save millions for the people? If you will only rise and go to battle, unafraid and unabashed, the Standard Oil Company shall not rule this state.

"HUEY P. LONG."

Mr. Sanders, when seen tonight, said he would not make any reply to Mr. Long's letter.