

Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

**FBI File on
Huey Long**

A Microfilm Publication by

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Wilmington, Delaware

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Scholarly Resources microfilm publications of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Files are produced with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC.

ISBN 0-8420-4292-X

Manufactured in the United States of America

First printing 2000

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Wilmington, DE 19805-1897

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Introduction

The political career of “Kingfish” Huey Long was marked by corruption, obsession with and abuse of power, and a Populist rhetoric calling for redistribution of wealth. His maverick politics, while an outrage to his political opponents, nevertheless gained him enough popularity to catapult him to both the Louisiana governor’s post as well as a U.S. Senate seat. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Long was in control of virtually every aspect of the Louisiana political system, probably wielding more power than any other governor in American history.

As senator, Long introduced a program for redistribution of wealth, but it was rejected by the Senate. He was often at odds with the leaders of his Democratic Party and even announced his intention to run against President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1936 presidential election. Long was assassinated in October 1935, one month after his announcement, while visiting Baton Rouge to attend a special convening of his legislature.

This FBI file on Huey Long details the organization’s investigation of Long mainly during the 1920s. Many of the reports of his activities refer to voting fraud. Also of interest are the large amount of memos produced by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. This collection is an important resource for studies in political science and American history.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act. The FBI, pursuant to provision of that legislation, has deleted certain documents or portion of documents. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, with newspapers as a subsection. The FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of material or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.

Roll Notes

FBI File: 62-32509

Section 1

Roll 1, 0003-0088

Aug 1934

Report regarding the legislative committee's investigation of the New Orleans city administration and allegations of tampering with the voter rolls by Senator Long, et al.

Copy of No. 208,386 Civil District Court, Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, Herve Racivitch vs. Ray H. Fleming, et al.

Copy of Act No. 109, Senate Bill No. 127 by Messrs. Boudreaux and Peterman (State of Louisiana)

Report concerning the National Guard occupation of the Registrar's Office in New Orleans

Section 2

Roll 1, 0090-0191

Aug-Sep 1934

Correspondence regarding a "peaceful and fair election" in the primary election (Sep 11, 1934)

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, Extract from the minutes:

Herve Racivitch vs. Ray H. Fleming, et al.

Corresponding regarding the use of National Guardsmen to police New Orleans during the primary election

Section 3

Roll 1, 0193-0290

Sep 1934-Sep 1935

Correspondence regarding the “Share Our Wealth Society,” a program backed by Sen. Huey Long

Correspondence regarding the shooting of Sen. Huey Long

“Our Blundering Government,” a speech given by Sen. Huey Long (Mar 1935)

Correspondence from Ernest J. Bourgeois of the “Square Deal Assn. of Louisiana,” protesting the corrupt state government and the “dictatorship” of Sen. Huey Long

News articles:

The New Orleans Item (Jan 1935)

“Troops Capture 100 Armed Citizens”

“Square Deal Force Called Out as One is Taken by Police”

“Accuses Standard Oil and 6 Officials; Troops Ring Capital”

“Censorship of the Press is Ordered”

“Sheriff Enjoined, Appointments Blocked”

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (Oct 1934)

“Federal Jury Votes New Charge Against Three in Tax Case”

Correspondence regarding alleged irregularities of the city administration of New Orleans

Section 4

Roll 1, 0292-0364

May 1939-Sep 1939

Investigation into the death of Sen. Huey Long

Correspondence regarding the shooting of James

Morrison,

a Congressional candidate from Hammond, LA

Subcommittee to investigate campaign expenditures, State

of Louisiana (Feb 1936)

News article:

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (Jan 1936)

“U.S. Law to Apply if Ballot Frauds, Stanley
Declares”

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (Sep 1935)

“Noe Announces for Governor; Martin Seeks Senate
Post”

Correspondence regarding the death of Huey Long

Section 5

Roll 1, 0366-0488

May-Aug 1939

Investigation into Louisiana State Officials and the 5% salary
contribution made by state employees to the Louisiana
State Political Party

Investigation of Dr. James Monroe Smith and the securing
of \$500,000 in bank loans through illegal means

Investigation into vice conditions and political corruption in
New Orleans

Section 6

Roll 1, 0490-0616

Jun-Jul 1939

Investigation into the political situation in New Orleans
Investigation of Eugene Barksdale, acting Construction
Superintendent at Louisiana State University and the
diversion of WPA materials

Investigation of Dr. James Monroe Smith

Transcript of testimony given by Seymour Weiss
(Jul 1939)

Transcript of testimony given by Louis C. LeSage
(Jul 1939)

Transcript of testimony given by Leon C. Weiss
(Jul 1939)

Transcript of an indictment against Monte E. Hart, et al.
Memorandum outlining the Louisiana State Administra-
tion irregularities and Federal violations

Section 7

Roll 1, 0617-0723

Jul-Aug 1939

Investigation of Louisiana State Officials and corruption
graft, and mail fraud

Section 8

Roll 1, 0725-0811

Jul-Aug 1939

Investigation of Louisiana State Officials and crime condi-
tions in that state

Investigation of Asst. U.S. Attorney Hilary J. Gaudin and
the allegation of favoring Seymour Weiss, et al., under
investigation

Section 9 **Roll 1, 0813-0883**

Jul-Aug 1939

Investigation of Louisiana State Officials

Mail fraud indictment against Seymour Weiss, et al.

Statement from Mrs. W. A. Tharpe (nee: Alice Lee Grosjean), former Louisiana Secretary of State, regarding collection of the 5% employee contributions

Background information on Louisiana state officials

Section 10 **Roll 1, 0885-0959**

Jul-Aug 1939

Investigation of Louisiana State Officials

Indictment for mail fraud

Charge of jury tampering

Radio Address of Shirley Wimberly, "Plot to Seize the State Government"

Background information on Shirley Wimberly

Prosecution of William George Helis for perjury

News article:

Shreveport Times (Jul 1939)

"Law Violations By Jurors Cited; Injunction Asked"

Investigation of Seymour Weiss and possible violation of the Connally Act

Section 11 **Roll 1, 0960-1124**

Aug 1939

Investigation of Louisiana State Officials

Transcript of Shirley G. Wimberly radio address
(Aug 22, 1939)

Editorial from *The Saturday Evening Post* (Aug 26, 1939):

“The Man Who Understood Huey”

Copies of indictments returned by Federal Grand Jury at New Orleans (Aug 1939) against Abraham L. Shushan, et al.

Investigation of Jouett M. Speed, a Grand Jury member, and his connection with Mundet Cork Corp. and sales to Charity Hospital

Transcript of Shirley G. Wimberly radio addresses (Aug 7 and Aug 15, 1939)

Investigation into allegations of fraud concerning reorganization of the Louisiana Oil Refining Corporation

Investigation into alleged W.P.A. irregularities

Section 12

Roll 1, 1126-END

Aug 1939

Investigation of jury members, Petit Jury, May 1939 Term, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana Division

News articles:

Dallas Dispatch Journal (Aug 1939)

“Judge Rules in North Texas”

Dallas Times Herald (Aug 1939)

“Three Texans Vindicated”

Section 13

Roll 2, 0003-0137

Aug-Nov 1939

Investigation of jury members, Petit Jury, November 1939 Term, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana Division

Petition from members of the National Maritime Union
asking for FBI help in the investigation of the murder
of Philip Carey, a Gulf District official
Indictment of Richard W. Leche, et al., on charges of
obtaining money under false pretenses and operating
a confidence game
Background and activities of U.S. Attorney Harvey G.
Fields

Section 14

Roll 2, 0139-0254

Feb 1935-May 1967

Information concerning crime conditions in New Orleans
Allegation of jury tampering in the Abe Shushan, et al.
mail fraud case

Allegation of irregularities in slum clearance under the
Federal Housing Authority

News articles:

The New Orleans States (Feb 1940)

“Crime by the Clock”

The Tribune (Mar 1940)

“Heads expected to fall in Long defeat reprisals”

The New Orleans States (Sep 1940)

“When Was Mr. Reyer Named as Legal Advisor to
Mayor? Schools and Pinballs”

Indictment of General Steve Alford and Major L. A. New-
som on violation of primary election laws

Investigation into irregularities regarding the disposition
of W.P.A. money involving Louisiana State University

Allegation of racketeering under police protection in New Orleans

FBI File: 98-11623

Roll 2, 0256-0263

Aug-Oct 1942

Sabotage

Attempt to destroy Huey Long Mississippi River Bridge

FBI File: 62-27030

Roll 2, 0265-0308

May 1932-Mar 1935

News articles:

New York Sun (Mar 1935)

“Today in Washington: Huey Long’s Share Wealth Program is Filled with Fallacies”

N.Y. Daily Mirror (Jun 1934)

“The Daily Washington Merry-Go-Round”

Pamphlet:

“The Strange Case of Louisiana and Huey P. Long”
by Harry Gamble (Apr 20, 1932)

FBI File: 62-32509 Sub-A

Roll 2, 0310-0449

Aug 1934-Aug 1936

News articles:

New York Times (Aug 1936)

“Long’s Aides Face Suits Over Taxes”

Chicago Daily Tribune (Jun 1936)

“Long Henchmen to Pay \$250,000 Taxes and Fines”

New York World Telegram (Jun 1936)

“Hullabaloo is Synthetic, Says Cummings on Killing
Cases Against Long Aids”

Washington Herald (Jan 1936)

“Gov. Allen, Long Successor, Dies”

Chicago Herald & Examiner (Sep 1935)

“U.S. Refuses Quiz in Death of Huey Long”

“Huey’s Death Studied; New Facts Expected at
Inquest”

New York Daily News (Sep 1935)

“G-Men Sent to Scuttle Long’s Ship of State”

Washington Herald (Sep 1934)

“Huey Assails New Orleans Police ‘Graft’ “

New Orleans Times-Picayune (Aug 1934)

“Bullets Needed if Ballots Fail, Avers Williams”

“Long Will Direct Investigation of City Government”

FBI File: 62-31578

Roll 2, 0451-0456

Apr-May 1934

Allegation of mail fraud against Sen. Huey P. Long in mail-
ing “Share Our Wealth Society” letters

FBI File: 62-53007

Roll 2, 0457-0506

Jan 1939-Sep 1969

Correspondence between J. Edgar Hoover and Seymour
Weiss

Information concerning Louisiana State Officials (Aug 1939)

Richard W. Leche, Seymour Weiss, and Freeman Bur-
ford indicted by Federal Grand Jury with violation of
the Connally Act and fraud against the government

News articles:

New Orleans Times-Picayune (Sep 1969)

“Business, Civic Leader is Dead”

Reader’s Digest (Apr 19610)

“These Fighters against Youth Crime Need Your Help”

New Orleans Item (Jan 1939)

“Did You Know This about Seymour Weiss”

FBI File: 62-28479

Roll 2, 0508-0533

Mar 1933-Mar 1935

Transcript of speech delivered by Shirley G. Wimberly
(Mar 1933)

News articles:

New York Herald Tribune (Dec 1933)

“Call for Troops to Guard Polls Hinted by Long”

Washington D.C. Post (Dec 7, 1933)

“Long Aids Held Guilt of Fraud”

Washington Herald (Jul 1934)

“Huey Clamps Vice Lid Down”

Post Master General James Farley defends himself
against charges made by Sen. Huey Long

FBI File: 62-29635

Roll 2, 0535-0540

Sep 1933-Sep 1934

News article:

The American Progress (Sep 1933)

“J.P. Morgan & Co. Points Way for Capone’s Release”

(An Open Letter)

FBI File: 62-29635

Roll 2, 0542-0551

Sep 1933-Sep 1934

News article:

The American Progress (Sep 1933)

“J.P. Morgan & Co. Points Way for Capone’s Release”
(An Open Letter)

FBI File: 49-12330

Roll 2, 0553-END

Oct 1951

News article:

Card file:

John M. Dunay, Jr., SAA Lerner and Weiss Inc.
Seymour Weiss, President and Joseph Lerner,
Secretary, petition for bankruptcy

