A history of controversy: Cain's career

1976: Cain goes to work for the Department of Corrections.
1982: Community outrage when it emerges that about $85,000 worth of computers purchased under his supervision were never taken out of their boxes.
1990: Cain first elected as an appointed representative to the State Civil Service Commission, a post he'll hold for 21 years.
1991: Cain forms Louisiana Association of Wardens and Superintendents, which persuades Gov. Edwin Edwards to install Richard Stewart, a former Cain subordinate, as corrections secretary.
1993: Cain tries to lure a private company, Controlled Recycling Equipment Inc., to open a facility at Dixon to turn food and yard waste into pulp. He also signed a contract with CFE giving him a 5 percent commission on deals he arranged.
1995: Stabler names Cain warden of Angola, to replace John White. That year, Louisiana prison officials buy 20 tons of Vaninole, a low-based moth substitute. Officials planned to buy nearly 500 tons more but backed off after a competitor said he could supply it at a substantially lower price.

OCTOBER 1995: Cain admits in federal court to transferring Angola whistle-blower inmate to an attention job after the offender wrote a letter to a federal agency saying a crane was being operated at the prison, fueled by inmate labor, "crimes of corruption.

NOVEMBER 1995: U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana Judge Frank Herringer finds that Cain and Stabler in contempt of court for failing to deliver documents, says they happened to meet state Civil Service in the corrections department.

FEBRUARY 1996: Reports that Cain and James LeBlanc, then Dixon warden, recently visited two sons of Mississippi Gov. Bill Allain, building prison facilities there. They were accompanied on one visit by architect Gerald Herbert, who has done work for the corrections department.

1996: Author Daniel Berringer publishes "God of the Risks": after sentencing federal judge against Cain, which returns his author's access to Angola. Cain had tarnished Berringer from the prison, allegedly after the warden demanded $50,000 from Berringer. Cain denies the allegations and threatens to sue Berringer but never does.

JULY 1999: After 29 years of federal involvement due to allegations of poor conditions at Angola, the prison is freed from the court.

DECEMBER 1999: Just days after an Advocate story detailed a series of security lapses at Angola, six inmates overwhelmed two guards and killed another.

JANUARY 2002: Cain briefly retires and is rehired a few hours later as part of a controversial deal to start teaching his pension in addition to collecting a paycheck.

2006-2008: Cain acquires about 150 acres of land near Jackson in West Feliciana Parish for planned Bluffs North subdivision, just before national recession. He ends up laying on two partners who have credits connections to inmates.

FEBRUARY 2006: Federal grand jury indicts Jim LeBlanc, head of Prison Enterprises, for welfare tampering. He agreed to wear a wire for the FBI and then told state contractor Dan Klein he'd lie in a planned conversation about a helicopter scheme involving Cain — not knowing Klein was wearing a government wire. LeBlanc is ultimately sentenced to six months in prison.

2009: Eugene Watkins, who sells fertilizer and other commodities to the Louisiana prison system, is indicted. The latter pleads guilty to mail fraud and Overbidding the state in sales of product to Angola. He is sentenced to six months in federal prison, where he dies.

2012: Cain seeks and receives an opinion from the state Ethics Board that says he can do consulting work for a private company that runs Louisiana work release programs using inmate labor. The company, Louisiana McPherson, is run by Paul Perkins, a former subordinate of Cain.

EARLY 2016: Cain publicly flirts with run for governor, but later says he won't try. Cain whoever the next governor is should represent James LeBlanc to Department of Public Safety and Corrections anyway, "otherwise it'll show an idiot.

DECEMBER 2016: Cain announces he'll retire on Jan. 1, and to move 23 years as warden of Angola.
Cain
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of which have depended on inmate labor.

In the end, it was a side deal that undercut the $2 million to a real estate venture in a 23-story office building on relatives and friends of inmates as partners, in apparent violation oflaw.

Cain declined numerous requests for comment. His spokesman told The Advocate that he asked The Advocate send him questions for a story. He did not respond.

The Advocate, which broke the news of his dad-

He's the boss
Cain's departure will leave a power vacuum at the Department of

Corrections. For at least a decade, Allies like often compare Cain to Boss Hogg, the

porty and avuncular character in the

fictional Kentucky town in TV's "The Dukes of Hazard.""For years, many close observers have mocked Cain's control of the department's executive, even if he was the top man on the or-

ganizational chart.

That title, corrections secretary, falls to John Bel Edwards, a former state

ad-agents deal that was prompted by Cain's firing of the department's Ad-

vocte反省es said that Cain's firing of the department's Ad-

vocte反省es was not a surprise, given the lack of

communication within the department's hier-

archy and the previous issues raising any questions of

corruption.

The retiring warden's eldest son, Nick, later became warden of the

Elmore Correctional Center, where he came under scrutiny for questionable

laws. In 2016, the warden's son-in-law Seth Smith was recently appointed to share the
duty for the department, that a pay that pays $150 per hour.

Cain's case is a major problem at Prison Enter-

prises, the correctional firm that buys

The company's share in the state's

inmates, produce, and construction services.

Pat Labrador, a corrections spokes-

man, said that Cain's firing was a sign that

the state was trying to clean house.

Cain's troubles extend beyond the state's prison

Cain's troubles extend beyond the state's prison

system, where he was at the top of the food chain.

On Friday, Cain's son-in-law, state Rep.

John Edwards, was indicted on 10 counts of

corruption.

Solidifying his power
Cain was a formidable figure in the 1980s and 1990s, when he rose to power in the

early 1980s through a confluence of events. In 1980, he won a high-profile cam-

aign to become the state's only black

dual candidate to represent the
city's citizens.

Cain, 65, was born in New Orleans, the son of a oil executive and a teacher. He was the

first black candidate to run for Congress in the state's 1st District, which includes parts of

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