Work on State Capitol Started at Simple Rites

Old L. S. U. Pentagon to be Used For Landscape

Baton Rouge, La.—At a brief, impromptu ceremony late Monday, Governor Huey P. Long turned the first spade of dirt on the site of Louisiana State University campus. With this simple gesture, without speech-making or formalities actual work was started on the 33-story skyscraper state house which is scheduled to be completed in January, 1932, as one of the major units of Governor Long’s $100,000,000 public improvement program for the state.

The spade ceremony was witnessed by only a handful of state officials, contractors, newspapermen and a few local citizens, since the governor’s intention of participating in breaking ground was announced only a half hour beforehand. The executive interrupted the signing of state highway bonds long enough to be whisked to the spot in an automobile, where he alighted, grasped a spade from Leon Weiss, supervising architect, and drove it into the ground with his shoe, smiling broadly the while. He paused only long enough to pose for news photographers before returning to the executive offices. The whole ceremony took less than five minutes.

The governor decided to turn the first spade of dirt himself after being informed that the contractors were on the ground, ready to start excavations for foundations this week.

Mr. Weiss, the architect, announced that the old pentagon barracks buildings on the L. S. U. campus, whose foundations were laid in the days of Spanish domination and over which the flags of eight nations have flown, will be preserved when the work of clearing the campus begins. Situated about 200 yards west of the new capitol, they will be worked into the general landscaping scheme for the new state house grounds.

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