

GOV. CONNALLY BETTER, LEARNS KENNEDY IS DEAD

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Texas's Condition

Much Improved —

Arm in a Cast

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DALLAS, Nov. 23 (AP)—Gov. John Connally was told today by his wife that President John F. Kennedy is dead.

Mrs. Connally talked to the Texas Governor shortly after 7 a.m. and Connally's first question was about Mr. Kennedy's condition.

After hearing her answer, he said, "That's what I was afraid of."

One of Connally's aids, Julian Read, described Connally's condition as much improved. He said that the Governor asked also about Mrs. Kennedy and was told that she had returned to Washington.

Several of Connally's relatives hurried here yesterday. These included four brothers, his sister and his mother.

"The first Mrs. Connally knew of any shooting was when her husband whirled and saw the President fall forward," Read said. "This must have been about two seconds after Mr. Kennedy was shot."

"Connally's turn, which was to the left, probably saved his life. After the Governor was shot, he also toppled forward."

Arm Suspended

Read said the most discomforting thing for Connally is that his right arm is suspended by ropes and pulleys and is in a cast from above the elbow to below the wrist.

Read said Connally called the cast "heavy and bothersome."

Mrs. Connally talked to Kennedy relatives this morning and inquired about Mrs. Kennedy's condition. Read said Mrs. Connally expressed again her concern and sympathy.

Read said President Lyndon B. Johnson had called Mrs. Connally last night and asked about the Governor's condition.

The Governor this morning asked his wife whether the President's assassin had been found. Mrs. Connally said a man had been arrested.

A stack of telegrams a foot high had accumulated in the temporary governor's office at Parkland hospital.

Connally was shot as he sat in an open car yesterday with President Kennedy.

Undergoes Surgery

Connally underwent surgery for more than an hour. After awakening, he asked: "How's Nellie?" his wife. He then asked: "How are the kids?" and went back to sleep.

Dr. Robert Shaw, his attending physician, described the Governor as "mentally alert, his condition satisfactory and stable."

"I do not anticipate his getting worse," Shaw said.

Mrs. Connally, looking tired, was kept from visitors and reporters. Only close relatives visited her. Her oldest son, John B. III, 16 years old, came from Austin yesterday to be with her. The other children, Sharon, 13, and Mark, 10, stayed in Austin.

Secret service agents talked briefly with Mrs. Connally in an attempt to reconstruct the crime.

Shaw said the bullet apparently struck Connally in the back, went through his chest into his wrist and then lodged in his thigh.

The bullet fragmented part of a rib and caused considerable tissue damage, Shaw said.

Connally, 46, will be in the hospital from 10 to 14 days.

Connally served as the first Secretary of Navy after Mr. Kennedy became President. He resigned the office in 1961 to run for Governor of Texas.

Connally was moved from an emergency room to a recovery room last night.

Shaw said he expects Connally to have no disability from the gunshot wound "and he should completely recover."