

CONNALLY GAINS DOCTORS REPORT

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Turn May Have Saved Life
—Full Recovery Likely

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DALLAS, Nov. 23—Gov. John B. Connally Jr. was reported in good condition today with a bullet wound suffered immediately after President Kennedy was assassinated.

Physicians said that the 46-year-old Governor of Texas was expected to suffer no disabling after-effects. He will remain in the hospital for 10 to 14 days.

Governor and Mrs. Connally were riding in the seat ahead of President and Mrs. Kennedy yesterday when a sniper's bullet struck the President in the head. The Governor had turned to see what had happened when he was struck in the back by another bullet.

Dr. Tom Shires, chief of surgeons at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School, said the Governor probably would have been killed if he had not turned.

"After consulting with Mrs. Connally and others on the scene," Dr. Shires said, "the consensus is that the Governor was quite fortunate that he turned to see what happened to the President. If he had not turned to his right, there is a good chance he probably would have been shot through the heart. As it was, the bullet caused a tangential wound."

Parkland Hospital reported late today that Governor Connally's condition was good. It said:

"His mental condition is clear. He is in control of all his faculties. The last X-ray of his chest was good. We are pleased with his improved progress."

From his hospital bed, the Governor proclaimed Monday, the day of the President's funeral, as "an official day of mourning in Texas."

Governor Connally appointed his 17-year-old son, John B. Connally 3d, to represent him at President Kennedy's funeral.

Physicians said that the bullet had traveled through the Governor's body and had broken his fifth rib. It then struck his right wrist, causing a compound fracture, and lodged in his left thigh. A fragment from the rib punctured his lung.

It was reported today that Governor Connally had attempted to persuade President Kennedy to cancel his trip to Texas. It was said that the Governor had thought the President's trip would widen the split among Texas Democrats and that he had also feared an embarrassing incident while the President was in the state.