

Wallace's Doctors Will Remove Bullet

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From Back When His Condition Stabilizes

A Surgeon Sees Chance Of Permanent Paralysis

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Special to The New York Times

SILVER SPRING, Md., May 16—Doctors caring for Gov. George C. Wallace said today that he would need further surgery to remove from his back a bullet that is apparently causing paralysis of his legs.

They said that the surgery would be performed after Mr. Wallace's condition stabilized further. There was no indication when this would be or whether the operation would be done at the Holy Cross Hospital here, where he has been under treatment since the assassination attempt against him yesterday.

Late tonight a retired surgeon who helped assemble the surgeons who operated on Governor Wallace yesterday, said that, on the basis of conversations with one of the surgeons, "all indications point to permanent paralysis."

None of the surgeons who operated on Mr. Wallace were available to confirm the report tonight, but Dr. Edgar Berman of Baltimore, the retired surgeon, said that his information was based on conversations with Dr. Hamilton Hutchinson of Montgomery, Ala., and others.

"It is impossible to tell exactly whether the spinal cord has been severed," Dr. Berman said. He said that the bullet lodged next to the spine had penetrated the bony structure but that tests and x-rays were inconclusive.

Dr. J. G. Galbraith, a neuro-

surgeon from Birmingham, Ala., said tonight that it was too soon to determine whether the Governor would be permanently paralyzed.

Such reports, Dr. Galbraith said, "are speculative at this time. It cannot be determined until the bullet is removed and his condition is not stable enough yet to permit that."

Governor Wallace was described as paralyzed from the hips down. This condition has remained unchanged since he underwent surgery last night here.

Otherwise, his condition appeared to be improving. Today his attending physician removed the Governor from the critical list.

"The Governor's condition is stable. He is doing very nicely. We do not feel his life is in danger," said Thomas Burke, Holy Cross Hospital's public information officer, who was quoting the attending physician.

There was no indication, however, of any lessening in the paralysis that has affected Mr. Wallace's legs. Earlier Dr. Joseph Schanno, the attending physician, said there was some paralysis from the hips down and a lack of sensation in the legs. Whether or not the paralysis would be permanent was not known. Permanent disability was considered possible.

One Bullet Removed

Mr. Burke described Gover-

nor Wallace as suffering the "normal amount of post-operative discomfort" today after surgery that took several hours last night to counteract bleeding, explore the wounds and remove one of the two bullets that had remained in Mr. Wallace's body.

The other bullet is still lodged against the spine just below the ribs.

Mr. Wallace has received no solid food, but was being fed intravenously. This was expected to continue for several more days.

The 52-year-old Alabama Governor was described as awake today and capable of speaking in a normal voice.

Earlier, doctors at the hospital had said that the Governor

was struck by four and possibly five bullets from the assailant's revolver. They could not tell the exact number of bullets that hit the Governor.

There were two through-and-through wounds of the right arm, one in the forearm and the other in the upper arm. There was also a superficial wound of the right shoulder and a glancing superficial wound of the left shoulder blade.

The most dangerous wounds were two in the chest, one on the right side and the other in the right hand region of the chest. It was considered possible, although not certain, that these wounds were caused by the same bullets that passed through the Governor's right arm.

One of the bullets hit ligaments of the intestine and brushed the large intestine on the left side, according to earlier reports from the doctors. One bullet penetrated Mr. Wallace's stomach. Hospital spokesmen said today that they

did not know which of these bullets was the one that is still lodged in the patient's back, which is the apparent cause of his paralysis.

The Governor evidently was bleeding quite seriously on the way to the hospital yesterday. He was given eight pints of blood before and during the operation last night.

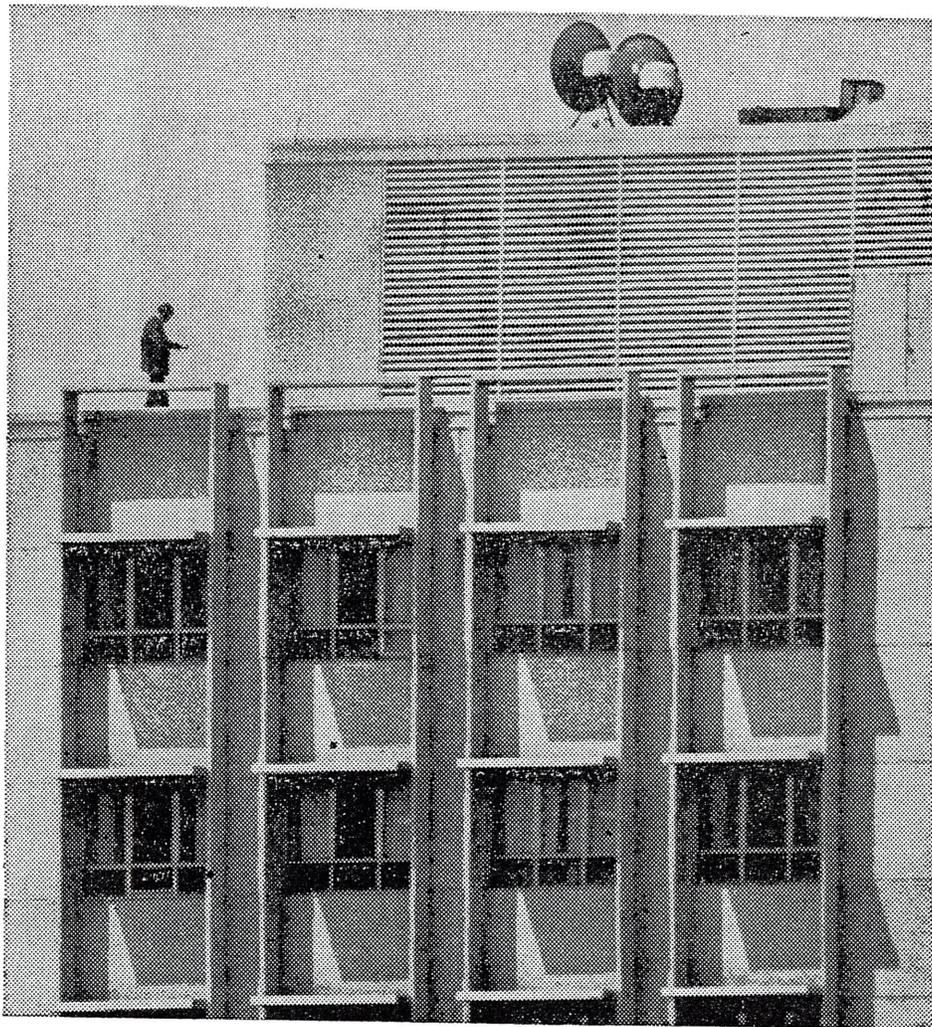
Bleeding Stopped

Today, the doctors said that the bleeding had been controlled and there was no further hemorrhaging. Dr. Schanno said that there would be no need for further surgery to treat the abdominal wounds.

Early today Mr. Wallace was removed from the surgical suite's recovery room, where he spent several hours immediately after his operation last night, and was put in the hospital's eight-bed intensive care unit.

There he will receive continuous care and his condition will be monitored around the clock. There are five other patients in the unit, but each bed space is separate from the rest.

Mr. Burke said today that it would not be unusual for a patient with injuries as serious as those that Governor Wallace suffered to spend four or five days in the intensive care unit. Yesterday, when asked how long the patient might be in the hospital, Dr. Schanno said four to ten days depending on Mr. Wallace's rate of recovery and provided there were no complications.



ON GUARD AT HOSPITAL: Secret Service agent on roof at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md., where Governor Wallace received surgery. His room is two floors below.

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REPORTS ON GOVERNOR'S CONDITION: Dr. Joseph Schanno, center, at news conference on his patient, George C. Wallace, at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md. He is flanked by Billy Joe Camp, left, aide to Mr. Wallace, and Dr. Herman Maganzini.