

Wallace Opponents and Supporters

CONGRESS VOICES ITS CONDOLENCES

Politicians Express Outrage,
and Some Link Assault
to War in Indochina

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

Opponents and supporters of Gov. George C. Wallace joined yesterday to condemn the shooting of the Alabamian and to deplore the growing tendency toward violence in American politics.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously approved a resolution saying the attempted assassination should be "deplored and condemned by all Americans."

The resolution, introduced by Senators James B. Allen and John J. Sparkman, Democrats of Alabama, also conveyed to Governor Wallace and his family the "best wishes and prayers of all citizens."

Similar words of condolence and outrage were issued by politicians across the country, by church groups and black leaders, and in newspaper editorials. Overseas, the shooting was front-page news and some newspapers linked the violence with the war in Southeast Asia.

'Ominous Regularity'

Izvestia, the Soviet Government newspaper, found an element of "ominous regularity" in the incident and recalling the death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, the newspaper noted: "Once again an election year—once again a shooting."

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said he was "horror-struck" by the shooting. "It indicates a weakness of some kind in our democracy," he said. "It bodes no good for this Republic."

The Senate minority leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, echoed his colleagues' expressions of shock, saying that "America was founded on five freedoms and now freedom

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and Deplore Violence

from fear has been violated."

The Republican whip in the Senate, Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, said the shooting "tends to demean our political processes and degrade our society." But he added that people "shouldn't jump to the conclusion that our whole society is sick because of a few defanged persons."

'A Violence Track'

Another view was expressed by Senator Mike Gravel, Democrat of Alaska, who observed that "the nation has been for a number of years on a violence track." He linked the Wallace shooting with the war in Vietnam, contending that "you can't separate the two." He went on to say, "I wonder that there is no more violence than there is."

Speaking to a group of college students in Laramie, Wyo., Dick Gregory, the comedian and civil rights activist, said that anyone who felt elation over the shooting of Governor Wallace was no different from a person who approved of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who succeeded Dr. King, attributed the attempt on the Governor's life to "the militarism and violence our nation is involved in" in Vietnam.

Baldwin's Remarks

Although he said he strongly disagreed with Mr. Wallace's views, Mr. Abernathy added that "it would be just as wrong to kill Governor Wallace for his beliefs as it is wrong for the state to kill Angela Davis for her belief."

James Baldwin, the black novelist, said in an interview

on a French radio station in Marseilles:

"I have had a kind of shock. I would not say it was pain—that would be a lie—but I was worried about something else.

"First, that a kind of madness will take over in America and that such events would not cease to happen. And it is also possible that they will say, 'Wallace was shot by a madman,' and that he will become more powerful than ever before, a kind of hero, and even more dangerous for us."

Sharing the Blame

Robert M. Shelton, the imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, said in Tuscaloosa, Ala., that anti-Wallace politicians must share the blame for the shooting of Mr. Wallace.

"I can truthfully say that anti-Wallace forces in Alabama can be accredited with as much of the psychological blame as anybody else," Mr. Shelton said. "I don't have any sympathy for these individuals who want to show their sympathy at a time like this when they haven't shown it in the past."

A statement by the National Council of Churches asked the help of "Almighty God for the healing" of Governor Wallace and said that "we pray God to lead this nation in a recovery of reason through faith in this critical year."

Typical, perhaps, of the news-

paper editorials around the country was one in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which said in part:

"This newspaper is in almost total political disagreement with George Wallace, and it must be said that in his manner and his actions he himself courted violence. Yet the place for the nation to express itself on what George Wallace stands for is the polling booth. Every American must feel a sense of shame and trepidation at what occurred in Maryland. Must every candidate walk in fear?"

Foreign Press Comment

Newspapers abroad were also quick to comment on the attempted assassination. "Why this senseless recourse to violence?" asked *Il Messaggero* in Rome. "Praying for George Wallace, paradoxically, means praying for America."

"Even his most bitter opponents must deeply deplore the shooting of Governor Wallace," said *The Times* of London. "Ironically, the shots came when Wallace had been moderating many of the crudities in some of his earlier speeches and campaigns."

Le Monde of Paris commented that "thousands of tons of bombs are falling daily on the two Vietnams, and it is more of a risk to run for election than to take a freeway."