



Post Photo by Jerry Engel
THE WALLACES
No time for sadness.

Wallace: Gunman

By JUDITH MICHAELSON

George Wallace said today that he now believes that Arthur Bremer, who gunned him down in Maryland 18 months ago, did not act alone.

"If I ever get to the bottom of this, I don't think he was a loner," Wallace said.

But the Alabama Governor, who is paralyzed from the waist down, stopped far short of linking Bremer, now serving a 53-year sentence, to any specific conspiracy, especially Watergate and G. Gordon Liddy.

Asked in a TV taping for the Today Show on NBC whether he knew if Liddy

had any association with Bremer and whether President Nixon was aware of any such association, Wallace said: "I never would imply that the President of the country knew anything about it. I have no evidence presented to me that would connect anybody to Bremer."

There have been published reports that government investigators had photographs showing Liddy, the convicted Watergate conspirator, with Bremer. Other published reports have claimed the photographs are fakes.

But Wallace said he had questions. "It's hard for me to understand how a busboy

would be able to accumulate money in the bank," he said, referring to Bremer's financial status.

It was a mellower George Wallace, accompanied by his handsome jet-black-haired wife Cornelia, who returned to New York last night. He was here to receive the Freedom Award of the Order of Lafayette, a group of present and former military officers who served in France during the two World Wars.

He is very tan. His hair, considerably thinner than it was after his first big victory in the Florida primary in March, 1972, is slicked back carefully, and dyed a

Sylvia - Have you seen this??

Wasn't Alone

light brown. Yet in full view—that is, not behind a podium—he looks frail.

He touched both his legs. "I would consider this a disability for *political* service," said Wallace who also suffered a military disability during World War II as a flight engineer on B-29s.

"I haven't been here in a pretty good while, 1971 it was, for a dinner in . . . well, in one of the big hotels," said Wallace leaning over the flower-bedecked dais at the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf. "I haven't been back since I got hurt in Maryland."

Wallace, 54, paralyzed from the waist down after being shot in Laurel, Md., on May 15, 1972—he has undergone seven operations since then—shifted uncomfortably in his chair. "You know when you sit in a wheelchair all the time, it gets a little boring."

"I'm feeling all right physically," he said. "I just can't walk."

He seemed to want to talk, particularly to someone who had seen him strutting at his zenith, at his office down-home in Montgomery after the Florida primary—which

Continued on Page 72

Continued From Page 4

was exactly two months before Maryland.

His tablemates sought to interrupt, but Wallace went on. His blood count was virtually normal, and the only medication he was taking was a Vitamin C.

He is due to run for Governor again this spring; he has done everything short of the official announcement: "I'm still alive," he said, smiling. And 1976? "Honey, I don't know. We'll just have to see what transpires."

"I really have been so busy I don't have time to get down," he said easily when asked about his emotional state. "But you feel tired sometimes."

He made no substantive remarks about Watergate. Asked about the troubles of Richard Nixon, he said: "I would pray for, and wish, any President well, for the interests of the country. I would hope no situation of impeachment would arise—whether for a Humphrey, Muskie, Wallace or Nixon."

In his speech, Wallace recited his litany: "law and order" and "the welfare mess" and "the exotic far left."

He said the U. S. must be "second to none" militarily; he called detente "an uptown word"—"I believe in detente; but while we're talking we should remember that the Soviet Union has never kept a single agreement from Yalta to this very day."

But somehow the fire was missing.

Yet no one, not any of the other award recipients—not the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Thomas W. Moorer; not the headmaster of West Point, Lt. General William Knowlton; and not even the star Presidential defender of the Senate Watergate Committee, Sen. Gurney (R-Fla.)—none of them could steal

Wallace's thunder.

All hands reached toward Wallace. Men bowed to him on the receiving line and they kissed Cornelia's hand. "God love you," said one white-haired woman.

"Please autograph," said a pale faced Fordham student, handing over a Wallace biography. He refused to identify himself because someday he wants to enter politics here. "Anonymous," he called himself.

The Governor was given a book of inspirational poems and his wife a bouquet of African violets by Mrs. Maurice J. Costello, who said she was the wife of the former physician of the late Cardinal Spellman, a previous Freedom Award winner. And he was wished Presidential good fortune by Baron Robert von Blomberg.

'Of Course . . .'

"Of course it is Baron," explained the smiling young blond man to a reporter. He said he is also a banker. "There were barons before there were Americans. My family goes back to before 800 A.D. at least I can trace that far back."

"His cousin was a field marshal under Hitler," said his wife, the Baroness Micheline von Blomberg. She also smiled.

As Wallace was wheeled into the room by a tall security guard from Alabama—three others also were with him—Don Cronan, a rosy-cheeked advertising man who would rather identify himself as "the old bugler of Ft. Monroe, Va." and who proudly wore his battle ribbons from the European theater against Hitler, took out his instrument and played Flourishes—that is, the opening flourishes to "Hail to the Chief."

Last night was exotic in conservative music. Col. James W. Gerard, president-general of the Order of Lafayette, now in real estate, set the tone when he lambasted Judge John J. Sirica's handling of the Watergate Seven, comparing his threat of 40-year sentences to "first offenders" as "almost like the Spanish inquisition."

He also referred to Gurney

as "Presidential timber."

Gurney's Comments

Gurney, who refused to discuss his own recent difficulties involving a federal investigation of his campaign funding, said in a bored tone:

"Watergate and the Agnew resignation, the energy crisis and now all this talk about

certain magazines, certain radios and certain TVs . . ."

Moorer, the first Joint Chiefs Chairman to attend a military parade in honor of Gen. Franco in Madrid, said:

"What detente really means is that we are willing to talk before we confront . . . I assure you detente does not mean we will have no conflict of interest [with communism]. We will have conflict . . . first we will negotiate, before we move into that which none of us wants, confrontation."

After the speeches were finished, after the guests had left the dais, the Wallaces were still around, taking greetings. When a New Jersey woman old enough to be her mother complimented 34-year-old Cornelia Wallace on her extraordinary courage, Mrs. Wallace turned it aside.

"I don't think I could have done anything without the determination of Judge."

Looking at the cluster of people surrounding him, she suggested, betraying a slight lisp: "I'm ever so pleased that people are so taken with my husband they don't ever notice me."

And while George Wallace was taking the hand of a white-haired man who was saying; "Gov'nor, you don't know how many are still with you," Cornelia Wallace was insiting: "Of course he has his eye on the Presidency; he has so much energy he outlasts me."