

Vigil puts hospital in spotlight

By William J. Eaton
Of Our Washington Bureau

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Holy Cross Hospital, bathed in floodlights and teeming with newsmen, became the center of national politics with the arrival of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace in its emergency room late Monday.

Cars bearing Wallace-for-President stickers filled the narrow side streets, and the soft accents of the South filled the corridors with hushed talk about "the governor's condition."

MARYLAND state troopers quickly ringed the eight-story, block-long hospital, setting up security checks at all entrances. Secret Service agents maintained a post near the emergency room.

The security continued Tuesday, although Montgomery County policemen replaced some of the state troopers. All luggage entering the hospital was checked.

Visitors to the hospital were screened at the front entrance. Although no one was searched, state troopers assisted by nurses and administrative personnel did check contents of women's purses.

At an unloading dock at the



President Nixon deplores the shooting of George Wallace as "senseless and tragic." (AP)

rear of the hospital amid crates and other merchandise was Meg Taylor, a hospital volunteer dressed in white. Miss Taylor said her job was to receive flowers and other gifts sent to Wallace.

Mrs. Cornelia Wallace received telephoned comfort

from President Nixon and personal words of sympathy from one of her husband's leading competitors for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.).

LESSER political officials, ranging from county executives to Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel, also put in appearances as Wallace spent five hours in surgery while doctors patched up his gunshot wounds.

Within an hour of the shooting at a shopping center in Laurel, Md., the President sent one of his personal physicians to Holy Cross Hospital to keep him informed on Wallace's progress.

Speaking to Mrs. Wallace, the President said: "Now I want you to tell him directly that Mrs. Nixon and I will re-

member him in our thoughts and prayers."

HUMPHREY, emerging from an hour's talk with Mrs. Wallace, said: "Thank God, it's not fatal." Another presidential contender, Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.) said in Detroit: "I tremble for the future of my country."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

(D-Mass.), who received Secret Service protection by presidential action Monday night although he has declared himself out of the 1972 race, issued a statement recalling the assassinations of two of his brothers.

"I am saddened beyond measure that tragedy has again stained and darkened the process we use to select our political leaders," Kennedy said.

The hospital, run by a nursing order of nuns, was lit up garishly by television crews so commentators could broadcast news from a position not far from the statue of a saint on the front lawn.

White-garbed nuns attempted to quiet the pack of reporters and photographers that filled the first floor of the hospital within an hour after Wallace was carried into the emergency room.

Several visitors said Mrs. Wallace was concerned but composed. "She's holding up fine," said George Mangum, the man who warms up crowds for Wallace.

Mrs. Wallace's yellow suit was spattered with blood. After her husband was shot and fell backwards, she ran to him, fell on her knees and threw herself on top of him.



The gun reaches over a woman as Gov. Wallace (white shirt, back toward camera) makes his way through the crowd.