'Less Than 50-50' Post 5-18-72

Chances Wallace Will Walk Slim

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — One of George C. Wallace's doctors said Wednesday there is "less than a 50-50 chance" the Alabama governor ever will walk again.

Even if he can walk, it will probably be only with the aid of leg braces, the doctor indicated.

Meanwhile, Wallace continued in good spirits, chatting with hospital visitors and eagerly reading newspaper accounts of his primary election victories in Maryland and Michigan.

Dr. James Galbraith, a University of Alabama neurosurgeon who has been attending Wallace, said a bullet which cut him down at a campaign rally Monday is lodged in the spine but is causing no pressure on the spinal cord.

He said the bullet wedged itself between two vertebrae, protruding into the bony canal that shields the nerve cord but not obstructing the flow of fluid that nourishes it.

Galbraith, speaking at a late afternoon news conference, said that although the bullet didn't shatter any bone in the spine, the shock of its impact caused the present paralysis and this might ease in time.

But he said Wallace hasn't regained any feeling in his legs, and the longer he goes without improvement the worse are chances for an eventual recovery. "There is less than a 50-50 chance," he said.

Galbraith said surgery will be performed to remove the bullet within another week or 10 days, and that it will be a full three months or more before Wallace can recover to whatever extent is possible.

He said none of his patients had ever recovered fully from such an injury, and that at best such patients walk with the aid of a leg brace.

Official word of his condition came in a morning medical bulletin from Dr. Joseph Schanno, his surgeon.

"The governor spent a comfortable night," Schanno said. "He is very alert and aware of his surroundings. He is reading the paper avidly. He is continuing to improve."

Schanno said also the Alabama governor's legs remain paralyzed and that "the exact nature of injury to the spinal cord cannot be determined until surgery is performed."

One visitor to Holy Cross Hospital said Wallace showed tremendous vitality and had a firm handshake Wednesday. "He was more coherent than I was," said the friend, Robert

See WALLACE, Page C-6

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WALLACE

(Continued From Page A-1)

Lichenstein, who is a New York real estate man and a cousin of Wallace's wife Cornelia.

Lichenstein recounted reading aloud newspaper accounts of Tuesday's Democratic primary elections, and said Wallace became impatient and asked to read them himself.

Wallace won 51 per cent of the Democratic votes in Michigan, 39 per cent in Maryland.

He expressed hope "that his campaign would go on to Oregon, New Mexico and California," Lichenstein said. Wallace's campaign manager Charles Snider said Tuesday that future efforts will be in Oregon, New Mexico and Rhode Island.

Disturbance Probe Continues

City police will continue their investigation into last Thursday's disturbance in Frederick following the Wallace rally.

State Attorney Robert Rothenhoefer said Major Charles V. Main conferred with him Wednesday morning concerning the police probe.

No arrests were made during the several hour disorder. Rothenhoefer said positive identification of the persons responsible for actually throwing bricks or bottles is needed before any charges can be made.

"As it stands now," Rothenhoefer said, "all police have is a vague discription of several silhouettes."

Positive identification is needed in order to get a conviction or even return an indictment against someone. People just can't be charged because they were there, Rothenhoefer said.

Bremer May Have Been Here

Arthur H. Bremer, accused assailant of Gov. George Wallace, may have been at the Frederick Armory last Thursday night.

Wallace aides and policemen said that Bremer was seen at other Wallace rallies in Michigan and Maryland. FBI agents said that a search of Bremer's car disclosed roadmaps of Gov. Wallace's stops in Maryland circled in red.

A photograph of Bremer was taken at a Wallace rally in Wheaton a short time before the Alabama governor was shot at another rally in Laurel.

Local police in Frederick are presently viewing photographs taken of the audience inside the Frederick Armory on the possibility that Bremer may have been in Frederick.

A local policeman, who requested he not be identified, said Bremer or a man closely resembling him was turned away at the side entrance of the armory before Wallace arrived. However, the officer said he could not be certain since he has not seen a clear picture of Bremer. The short blond hair was highly noticeable, he said.

Secret Service agents were in Frederick earlier checking on reports that Bremer had been seen in the area. Since then the investigation has been turned over to the FBI who have been mainly concerned with tracing Bremer's background to determine if the shooting was part of a conspiracy.