

# U.S. Investigators Took Over

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An investigation which federal forces insisted they must dominate spread widely today to trace the background of the man accused of shooting Gov. George C. Wallace.

Early stages of the probe had been complicated—and momentarily stalled—by an hours-long jurisdictional dispute over both the investigation and prosecution of Arthur Herman Bremer.

But, after federal authorities won priority over the custody of Bremer and began deploying their much larger staff, it seemed clear that his case would be predominantly a federal one for the time being.

The Secret Service also was involved in the investigation of the assault on Wallace, but that probe was being led by the FBI. Soon after the shooting, Acting Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst ordered the FBI to get into the case.

Within a short time, the investigation had spread to Milwaukee—the suspect's last known residence. It also was likely to reach other areas as Bremer's movements up to yesterday were traced.

Federal officials were being particularly cautious about

saying what they knew of the case. They released only the barest of details. But there did appear to be an initial effort to discourage speculation that Bremer was part of a wider plot.

"There is no indication of anyone else being involved," a Justice Department source volunteered.

Asst. Treasury Secretary Eugene T. Rossides indicated there was no suspicion of a conspiracy against the candidates, saying "that is just one of the items being investigated." The Secret Service is part of the Treasury.

Rossides and other federal officials were careful, in discussing the initial investigative steps yesterday, to include references to Prince Georges County police actions.

But, in the actual encounters of local and federal authorities in the first hours after the incident, there was friction and disagreement, growing heated at times.

Reliable sources said the struggle over jurisdiction began shortly after the shooting.

Officials of the FBI, the Secret Service and the Prince Georges County Police Department all sought to establish their respective agencies as having principal responsibility

for the investigation, according to those sources.

By early evening, the Secret Service had bowed out of the dispute, but the struggle between the FBI and county police intensified and was not resolved until after 9 p.m. when Bremer—who entered Prince Georges County Hospital in the custody of county police—left the hospital as a federal prisoner.

Both the Prince Georges police and the county's chief prosecutor, Arthur A. Marshall Jr., sought to retain principal jurisdiction in the case, and to arraign Bremer on state charges before federal charges were filed and to keep the prisoner in their custody.

The police argued that they had conducted almost all of the preliminary investigation at the scene of the shooting and that the federal government traditionally defers to local or state law enforcement authorities in criminal cases where there is overlapping jurisdiction.

But the federal agents, led by Thomas Farrow, special agent in charge of the FBI's Baltimore field office, reportedly were equally vehement in insisting that two federal charges—assault on a federal officer (the Secret Service agent who was shot) and as-

# Only After Feud With P.G.

sault of a candidate for federal office—should take precedence over the state charges.

The federal offenses carry maximum penalties of 10 years in prison on each count (unless Wallace or the Secret Service agent die, in which case the maximum is life imprisonment) while the state charges—four counts of assault with intent to kill—carry maximum penalties of 15 years each.

Although it is likely that Bremer eventually would be tried on both the federal and the state charges, the struggle last night revolved around which agency would be the first to formally arraign him, to incarcerate him and to try him.

The struggle continued for hours throughout the evening, in the corridors of the hospital and in a hospital meeting room where the county police and FBI agents confronted each other.

Said one Prince Georges police officer, who asked not to be publicly identified: "The FBI agents kept coming in pairs, to the point where they outnumbered us 5-1 in that little room. I've never seen so many FBI men in my life."

Another county police official said Farrow and other

FBI agents invoked the names of both President Nixon and Kleindienst, insisting that it was the personal wish of both federal officials that Bremer be turned over to the FBI.

"We don't want another Jack Ruby case," Farrow was reported to have told the Prince Georges officials, referring to the man who assassinated Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected slayer of President John F. Kennedy, while Oswald was in the custody of the Dallas Police Department.

Farrow also was reliably reported to have suggested that Marshall was seeking initial jurisdiction in the case for personal political reasons, noting that the prosecutor is a candidate for a Democratic congressional nomination in today's Maryland primary elections.

The dispute finally was resolved in favor of the federal official by William W. Gullett, the Prince Georges county executive (and a Republican), who ordered John Rhoads, the county's acting police chief, to turn Bremer over to the FBI.

Less than an hour before Gullett issued his orders to the county police, Marshall was telling newsmen that Bremer, following his release from the hospital, would first be taken

to the county seat at Upper Marlboro for arraignment on the four state charges.

Although the county technically filed the first charges while Bremer was still in the hospital, the procedure under which those charges were brought requires arraignment before a judge within 24 hours — an event now considered highly unlikely because Bremer is expected to remain in federal custody for at least the next several days.

Marshall and George Beall, the U.S. attorney for Maryland, denied any knowledge of the feud last night. Farrow was not available for comment.

Security around Bremer was especially tight after federal officials took custody of him. A caravan of five unmarked cars sped Bremer to the U.S. Courthouse in Baltimore for the midnight arraignment on the federal charges.

Some 25 marshals and FBI agents were visible around the corridors as Bremer was swept into and out of the hearing room. The press was kept at a distance, and requests for a chance to photograph Bremer were refused. There was no indication, however, that federal authorities had any information that Bremer was actually threatened.