Wallace to Undergo peration Sunday

By Thomas O'Toole Washington Post Staff Writer Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace will undergo surgery Sunday at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring for removal of the bullet that has been lodged in his spine for the past month.

The decision to operate on Wallace was taken yesterday by doctors encouraged by his progress in recovering from the lingering abdominal infection he has suffered from since an assassin's bullet was removed from his stomach the night of May 15. Gov. Wallace was shot four times that day after speaking at a rally in Laurel.

"The governor is almost, fully fully recovered and he's gained back five of the 20 without complications, there is pounds he's lost as a result of the infection," one doctor close to the governor said in explaining the decision to op-erate again on Sunday. "In view of his progress, we decided to remove the second bullet right now."

Wallace sails If Gov. through Sunday's surgery

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Barring surgical complications, Wallace might stay another week to 10 days at Holy Cross Hospital after the operation and then rest up at his home in Montgomery, Ala., doctors said. He could then attend the convention in Miami, though his paralyzed legs would keep him in a wheelchair and his weakened condition might keep him from making more than token appearances at the convention. Wallace has been paralyzed from the waist down by the hullet.

According to his aides, Wallace hopes to arrive in Miami the day the convention begins or possibly the day before.

His appearance seems likely to serve as an emotional rally for his supporters and possibly make it tougher for the Dr. Baltazar E. Perez and Dr. keep him in Holy Cross," one Once destroyed other Democratic presidential J. Garber Galbraith, both neu-



GEORGE C. WALLACE .. recovering from infection

a good chance he will be fit enough to attend the Democratic National Convention, which begins July 10 in Miami Beach. "We fully expect that with a good recovery he will be in Miami," said press secretary Billy Joe Camp.

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address the convention but the prospect of any real speechmaking appears doubtful.

The operation to remove the builet from Gov. Wallace's spinal canal will do nothing to restore feeling or movement to his legs, according to some medical sources, but it will remove the risk of a spinal infection that could complicate his recovery and might even threaten his life.

"If the bullet doesn't come out an abcess might form around the bullet that could turn into spinal meningitis," one neurosurgeon explained. "If that happened, the infection could spread up the spinal cord and even to the covering of the brain."

sometime Sunday morning by

said by aides to be anxious to Galbraith is from the Univer-address the convention but the sity of Alabama Medical The operation to remo School in Birmingham.

> The decision not to move Wallace to Birmingham for the spinal surgery came as Doctors expect the surgery to something of a surprise, since last no more 'than two hours, his aides and his wife Cornelia most of which will be taken had said several times that the second operation would be done in Birmingham.

> What decided Wallace to have the operation at Holy tors will find out for the first Cross, doctors said, were a "lot of little things"—like the damage to Wallace's spinal fact that he was getting such good treatment at Holy Cross, that he had grown fond of the spinal cord is at least half cut hospital staff and felt at home and may in fact be cut all the in the hospital. Camp also was way through. quoted as saying that many tests for the operation already have been completed at Holy

candidates to bargain for his rosurgeons. Dr. Perez is on no real medical advantage in delegates. The governor is the staff at Holy Cross and Dr. moving him somewhere else

The operation to remove the bullet from the spine will be delicate but not difficult according to medical authorities. Doctors expect the surgery to up by the physical removal of the slug from his spinal canal.

When the spine is exposed and the bullet removed, doccord. Doctors who have seen the x-rays have said that the

Whatever the damage to the spinal cord, it cannot be re-paired by surgery. The nerv-Wallace will be operated on Cross. Wallace will be operated on Cross. We the second ous tissue of the spinal cord destroyed, it is deThe most delicate part of Sunday's surgery will be removal of the bullet, which lies in the spinal canal between the first lumber vertebra and the 12th thoracic veterbra. Wallace will be on his stomach throughout the operation, which is technically called a laminectomy.

There is very little room in that part of the back for surgeons to operate. The spinal cord is less than an inch wide, and the doctors will have to retract the cord and moveaside the nerve roots around it, and tease the bullet out.

Wallace's accused assailant, Arthur H. Bremer, a 21-year old former busboy from Milwaukee, is being held in Baltimore County Jail on state and federal charges stemming from the shooting of Wallace and three others at the Laurely rally.

