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Billy Joe Camp, Gov. Wallace's press secretary, right, and assistant Elvin Stanton, give morning briefing.

# Wallace Continues Recovery

Doctor Sees  
'Slim Chance'  
He Will Walk

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By Stuart Auerbach  
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Gov. George C. Wallace's

chief neurosurgeon gave his patient only "a slim chance" yesterday of ever walking again but refused to call the situation hopeless.

Dr. James Garber Galbraith confirmed that a bullet is lodged in Wallace's spinal column and said the fact that the Alabama governor has neither been able to move his legs nor feel any sensations there for more than 48 hours is a bad sign.

"The prognosis has to be rather guarded as to his prospects for recovery," said Galbraith, a professor of neurosurgery at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham.

Another doctor who has seen the x-rays taken of Wal-

lace's back and discussed the case with specialists was far more pessimistic. This doctor, who insisted on anonymity, said Wallace's chances of walking again are virtually nil.

The bullet slipped into the spinal canal through a narrow opening between two vertebrae. With most of its energy spent going through Wallace's arm and chest, the bullet edged down the spinal column—which at that point is no thicker than the tip of a little finger.

A neurosurgeon, who also asked not to be identified, said that chances of that happening without severely damaging the nerves in the spinal cord are less than 1 in 100.

Galbraith, who flew here yesterday to examine Wallace in the intensive care unit of

Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring after having gone home Tuesday, acknowledged that he had never had a patient recover fully from spinal cord injuries similar to Wallace's.

He said also that he knows of no such cases in the medical literature.

"I have reservations about his gaining full control of his legs," said Galbraith.

He said the injury to the spinal cord occurred as soon as Wallace was shot Monday afternoon at the Laurel Shopping Center while campaigning in the Maryland Democratic primary.

Wallace was aware that his legs were paralyzed "the moment he was hit," said Dr. Baltazar E. Perez, the neurosurgeon who first examined the Alabama governor in the Holy Cross emergency room.

"He accepted readily that he could not move his legs," Dr. Perez continued.

"He (Wallace) was more concerned about his other injuries," a bullet that nicked his intestine and was causing internal bleeding and superficial wounds on his arms and shoulders.

Both Galbraith and Perez talked with Wallace yesterday afternoon.

"We have told him that his prognosis is guarded but far from hopeless," said Galbraith.

"He said he was going to fight and he will make out."

That is a good sign for Wallace's eventual return to active public life. Experts in rehabilitative medicine said that

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*Books on Robert F. Kennedy were found in room of Gov. Wallace's assailant. See Page A17.*

## WALLACE, From A1

Wallace's motivation will make the difference between his being confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life or being able to move around on crutches with heavy braces.

One of the most discouraging signs of his condition was that Wallace had not moved his legs or felt anything in them more than 48 hours after the shooting.

His bladder and bowels were also not functioning in a further sign of serious damage to the spinal cord since it is the spinal cord that controls these organs.

"If the cord suffered only a bruise he should have felt some sensation in his legs by now," a second neurosurgeon said. "The longer the loss of feeling persists the more it suggests irreversible damage to the spinal cord."

Wallace's bladder was being emptied by an indwelling catheter, which is routine for persons who have had serious stomach surgery but which is usually dispensed with after a day or two.

"His bladder is not working and one would expect this in a person even with temporary paralysis," said Dr. Arthur Willets, a urologist at Holy Cross Hospital who is helping to treat Wallace. "The catheter serves as a means of emptying the bladder."

Despite the fact that the bullet was lodged in the spinal canal, it had evidently not blocked the flow of spinal fluid through the canal. An oily dye used in a myelogram X-ray study of the spine flowed by the bullet, which raises a question about whether the spinal cord has been completely severed or

whether it has just been partially cut.

Dr. Galbraith said that he had participated in a spinal tap of Wallace Monday night that showed blood in his spinal fluid.

Doctors said this was normal in any injury to the spinal cord, that the blood could have come from a blood vessel that had been damaged or from the wound to the spinal cord itself.

On Tuesday, a reliable source told The Washington Post that the bullet had severed the spinal cord, making permanent paralysis for Wallace inescapable.

Wallace aides on Tuesday night disputed that assertion, saying it was unclear and that the answer to the question of permanent paralysis was not yet known.

On the basis of Galbraith's press conference yesterday, that answer was still unknown.

But permanent paralysis can well result from a partial cutting of the spinal cord.

Galbraith specifically called incorrect a statement issued Tuesday night by Wallace's campaign manager, Charles Snider, that the governor had regained some feeling in his legs.

Wallace still needs a second operation to remove the bullet from his spinal canal to prevent any infection from setting in. That operation will take place when Wallace gets stronger—probably within a week.

That operation, however, will not ease Wallace's paralysis any, Galbraith said. It will tell, though, how much the spinal cord has been damaged by the bullet.

If all goes well, Galbraith said, Wallace should be re-

covered enough within six weeks from the second operation to sit up in a wheelchair.

That means he has the barest chance of attending the Democratic National Convention, which opens July 10 in Miami Beach.

Members of the Wallace family, who visited him yesterday in his hospital room, said the governor was in good spirits after winning both the Maryland and Michigan primaries Tuesday night.

"He asked me to go and get his latest vote totals," said Billy Joe Camp, Wallace's press secretary.

"That's the reason we were late" for yesterday's morning press briefing on Wallace's condition," Camp said.

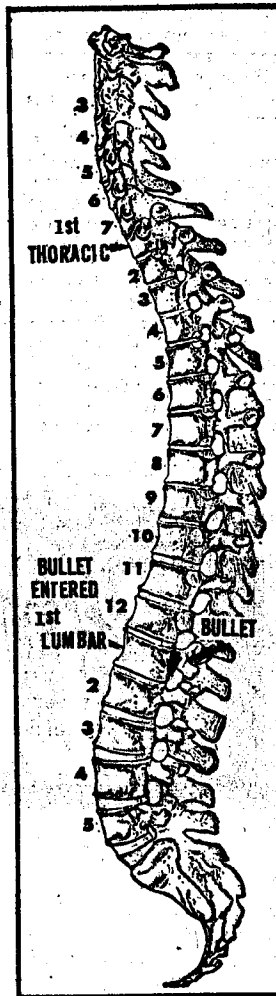
Robert Lichtenstein, a cousin of Cornelia Wallace from New York, said the governor was animated in conversation and clasped his hand in a strong grip. The doctors said he was reading newspapers avidly.

With the exception of his continued paralysis, the doctors all said they are pleased with the rate of Wallace's recovery.

There was some talk yesterday—spurred by an offer from President Nixon—that Wallace might be moved from Holy Cross Hospital to the Army's Walter Reed General Hospital.

Galbraith said he had conferred about the possibility with Dr. Walter R. Tkach, the President's physician, but added that no move is planned at this time.

Walter Reed is a bigger hospital than Holy Cross and would offer more security for Wallace, his family and his political aides.



Drawing locates bullet in Gov. Wallace's spine.