

## Faces Months of Convalescence

# Wallace Off Critical Listing

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Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, permanently paralyzed from the hips down by a bullet that severed his spinal cord, improved enough yesterday for his doctors to take him off the critical list.

Medical sources at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, where Wallace is being treated in an intensive care unit, said his chances of ever walking again are "zero."

The bullet, one of four that wounded Wallace as he campaigned Monday at the Laurel Shopping Center, was still lodged in his spinal column, the hospital source said.

There is no way such an injury can be repaired, but the actual degree of Wallace's impairment depends on how far down the spine the cord was cut.

Although they have known since late Monday night that Wallace's spinal cord was cut, the governor's doctors at Holy Cross pub-

licly hedged all day yesterday on the nature of his paralysis.

But Dr. Joseph F. Schanno, the head of the team of six physicians caring for Wallace, acknowledged yesterday morning that the paralysis could be permanent. Moreover, Dr. Schanno said, Wallace is unable to feel anything below the waist.

Aside from Wallace's inability to move his legs, the doctors expressed extreme satisfaction with the way Wallace has recovered from his wounds.

In a 6 p.m. medical bulletin, Schanno said:

"The governor has made satisfactory progress. His condition remains stable. Monitoring of the respiratory function, electrocardiogram (heart rhythms) and urinary output are all stable and essentially within normal limits."

See MEDICAL, A22, Col. 1

### MEDICAL, From A1

Wallace was conscious most of the day, talking in a normal tone of voice with campaign aides, his wife, Cornelia, his children and Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel.

Dr. Schanno said that Wallace was undergoing "the normal amount of post-operative discomfort" following five hours of surgery Monday night. He was shot about 4 p.m. Monday while campaigning in Maryland Democratic presidential primary.

Two others shot at the same time were also reported to be recovering. Secret Service Agent Nick Zarvos, shot in the right side of the neck, was reported in satisfactory condition at Leland Memorial Hospital in Riverdale. A Wallace campaign volunteer, Dora Thompson, was said to be in "very satisfactory" condition at Holy Cross.

An Alabama state trooper

acting as a Wallace bodyguard, Capt. Eldrid Dothard, was also wounded, but he was released Monday night after treatment for gunshot in the left arm at the Holy Cross emergency room.

Wallace is being fed intravenously, and doctors do not expect him to be able to eat solid foods until Friday or Saturday, at the earliest. He will probably remain until then in the hospital's eight-bed, \$126-a-day intensive care unit—where all his vital signs and heart rhythms are continually monitored by special nurses.

He was taken to the seventh floor intensive care unit at 3:30 a.m. yesterday after spending about five hours—the normal amount of time—in the surgical recovery room next to the first floor operating suite.

Although doctors never feared for Wallace's life, they kept him on the critical list until yesterday afternoon, when Schanno said:

"He is doing very nicely and we do not feel that his life is in danger."

Monday night's operation was aimed mainly at stemming the internal bleeding caused by a bullet that went through Wallace's upper right arm, down into his chest, lodging in the abdomen. That bullet nicked the large intestine and a blood vessel leading to the kidneys.

It did not cut the blood vessel or slash the intestine—which could have allowed poisonous wastes to flood the abdomen. That could have caused infection.

Another bullet also passed through Wallace's right forearm and chest. This one landed in his spinal column in the area of Wallace's hips.

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The .38 caliber bullet cut the spinal cord cleanly, a doctor on the hospital staff told The Washington Post.

That bullet was left in the spinal cord Monday night, Dr. Schanno said, because "it was felt it would not be of any advantage to prolong the surgery." Moreover, removing the bullet would not have improved Wallace's condition in any way, and leaving it in does not cause him any harm.

Wallace must undergo a second operation to have the bullet removed from his spine to avoid a later risk of abscess, which could result in his losing more feeling than he already has.

Two other bullets hit Wallace, both passing through his body and causing only superficial injury. One of these shots passed under his right shoulder blade, the other under his left shoulder blade.

Neurologists who watched the television films of Wallace being shot felt from the first that the spinal cord had been severed.

The Alabama governor flopped woodenly to the ground. He was not seen to move his legs from that moment on.

"The damage was done from the moment of impact," one doctor said.

Before the exploratory surgery, doctors had hoped that the paralysis was caused by a blood clot from a cut artery.

But the operation ruled that hope out, a doctor on the staff of Holy Cross said.

The surgical team included Dr. Baltazar E. Perez, a neurosurgeon on the staff of Holy Cross Hospital, and Dr. James G. Arnold, a neurosurgeon from the University of Maryland's hospital in Baltimore.

They were joined yesterday by Dr. James Garber Galbraith, a neurosurgeon from the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, and Dr. Hamilton Hutchinson of Montgomery, Wallace's personal physician.

They consulted with the Holy Cross doctors, examined Wallace and then left for home last night.

The Alabama doctors

agreed that Wallace's condition is improving but that it will be some time before doctors will be able to operate once more to remove the bullet in his spine.

Although the Holy Cross doctors refused to speculate on the chances that Wallace would be moved to Alabama for that operation, his own doctors stated "All of us are encouraged that his progress indicates an early return to his home."

President Nixon has offered the Alabama governor an Air Force plane for the flight home, if he needs it.

From here on in, Wallace's recovery will be slow. It will take weeks at least before Wallace is considered strong enough to undergo the second operation.

Then it will be at least two months before he has recovered enough to be able to move about in a wheelchair. This timing could extend past the Democratic National Convention, which starts in Miami Beach on July 10.

Beyond the simple fact of getting Wallace strong enough to sit up in a wheelchair lies a lengthy period of rehabilitation, during which he must be taught how to get around without using his legs.

The lower the injury is on

the spinal cord, one neurologist explained, the better off the patient is.

Wallace's injury was described by Schanno as being in the first lumbar vertebra—just below the last rib in his chest. At that point, one neurologist said, "there's not a lot of spinal cord left."

But besides the use of his legs, Wallace has probably lost control of his bladder and bowels.

He may, however, be able to move some muscles in his hips that are controlled by nerves in the spinal cord above the injury. This means he may be able to lift his thighs.

These nerves, a neurologist explained, have been "shocked" by the bullet wounds and it will take two days to a week for them to get back to normal.

With that degree of injury, there is a good chance that Wallace will be able to swing along on crutches with his legs encased in long braces, a doctor said.

But a good deal of Wallace's recovery depends on his mental attitude, experts said. If he does not have the will to move on his own, he could be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.