

Rumors About Wallace Shooting Just That

By Carl Bernstein

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Within hours after the shooting of Gov. George C. Wallace, rumors regarding the assassination attempt—and particularly the suspect in the case—began circulating via the news media.

The first major rumor—later held false—to appear on television and in print inferred that a second suspect was wanted in the shooting.

Then, after Arthur Herman Bremer of Milwaukee had been arrested in the shooting of the governor, he became

the focus of a series of vague reports regarding his purported political leanings and his presence at several Wallace rallies.

The principal rumors—none of which proved true—that received wide circulation were these:

- A second suspect was being sought in the shooting. This assertion, widely circulated in newspapers and on television, was occasioned by a Maryland State Police lookout for a light blue Cadillac seen near the scene of the shooting. According to the lookout

broadcast within an hour of the shooting, a man had been seen changing the auto's license tags from Georgia to Maryland plates.

Several hours later, the Cadillac was found by state police abandoned on the Baltimore Beltway and identified as a stolen car. Federal and state investigators reported the car appeared unconnected with the shooting. They said they had no reason to believe more than one person was involved in the murder attempt.

Bremer held leftist beliefs. In several dispatches,

the Associated Press quoted "a source close to the investigation" as saying scraps of paper indicating this were found in the suspect's Milwaukee apartment. The material, according to the AP's source, "showed he (Bremer) had allied himself with 'left-wing causes.' The source did not elaborate," the dispatches added.

Marvin Arrowsmith, chief of the AP's Washington bureau, declined to identify the source, adding that the See RUMORS, A22, Col. 3

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The Rumors: All Proved Exactly That

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wire service continues to stand by the story.

The material found in Bremer's apartment, according to those who have described it to The Washington Post, ranged from pornography to doggerel purportedly written by the suspect, from Wallace campaign souvenirs to a Black Panther newspaper.

Bremer's father said his son was not particularly interested in politics. Other acquaintances concurred. The head engineer at an elementary school where Bremer worked as a janitorial assistant said the suspect "believed everything should be divided up equally," with

wealth redistributed.

- Bremer had worked in Gov. Wallace's presidential campaign. This assertion apparently began with a New York Daily News story saying Bremer had been traveling with the Wallace campaign and had endeared himself to members of the governor's staff.

The News attributed the story to an unidentified member of Wallace's campaign organization.

Later, Frank Daniel of the Wallace staff said he recalled seeing Bremer at at least one rally—in Milwaukee—and stated definitely that "he's not part of the campaign."

Janet Petrone, who runs the Wallace Maryland campaign office, said Bremer drifted in one day last week, offered his services, and then drifted away.

*No ref to Bremer's
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