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Politics Will Make Stricken Wallace Try To Walk Again

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The wife of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace says politics is the only thing that would make her husband try to walk again and adds: "If I have to push a wheelchair in the White House, I will do it."

A bullet lodged in Wallace's spinal column also will be left there indefinitely unless it causes infection, Cornelia Wallace said Wednesday night at a taping of the Merv Griffin television show.

Mrs. Wallace also said that the governor, who was shot

May 15 at a Maryland shopping center, moved his foot for the first time Tuesday night while his children visited.

"But I don't know exactly what it means, because a neurosurgeon was not there," she said.

Earlier, Wallace's toes had wiggled when his feet were rubbed or tickled. He is hospitalized at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md.

Mrs. Wallace's appearance on the show will be broadcast Monday, the day before the California Democratic primary

in which Wallace is a write-in candidate.

Before she learned of the possibility her husband might not walk again, Mrs. Wallace said she first felt "relieved to think that we could live a normal life and be home and do simple things like simple people do ..." because she felt he would not immediately try to resume his political career.

But now, she said, she wants her husband to pursue his political goals. "I think that the only thing that would ever really make him want to try to walk again is his career and his politics," she explained.

She was asked whether she saw Arthur Bremer, the accused assailant, during the shooting. "No, I didn't see anything," she replied. "I didn't see any of him. I just heard the shots, because I was walking away, actually walking to get a lady ... so that she could shake hands with my husband."

"The thing that would have killed him was the stomach injury," she said of Wallace's wounds.

"The bullet missed his large aorta by a hair. It missed his lung, missed his liver, missed every vital organ and just by a fraction. So we just are thankful that he is alive."