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Gov. Wallace Receives Visit From McGovern

From News Dispatches

Sen. George McGovern visited Gov. George C. Wallace at Holy Cross Hospital yesterday and told reporters afterwards he would not rule out offering the Alabama Governor a cabinet post should McGovern win the presidency.

"I wouldn't rule out a position for the governor," McGovern told reporters. "There might be some place in the administration where he might do a pretty good job . . . I wouldn't rule out a position for Gov. Wallace if it were appropriate."

Declining to go beyond that, McGovern said, "It's premature to talk about Cabinet positions."

The South Dakota senator, current front-runner for the Democratic nomination, repeated an earlier rejection of Wallace as a possible vice presidential running mate, saying, "He would be as uncomfortable on a McGovern ticket as I would be on a Wallace ticket."

McGovern spent about a half-hour with Wallace at the Silver Spring hospital where the Governor has been under

treatment, paralyzed below the waist since he was shot May 15 at a campaign rally in Laurel.

Wallace was in "much better spirits than I expected," McGovern said. He said the governor's greatest difficulty now was pain from bullet wounds in his abdomen, and not from the bullet in his spine causing the paralysis.

Their conversation was a "lighthearted, friendly discussion" that did not go into "real issues," McGovern said. He said he found Wallace eager to attend the Democratic convention in Miami Beach next month.

McGovern said he assured Wallace that his views and those of his supporters at the convention would be heard, and the South Dakota senator told Wallace that he would urge convention delegates, who are required by state law to vote for Wallace, to do so.

McGovern noted that in Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Michigan where Wallace won primaries, some delegates required to vote for the Alabama governor on early ballots have indicated that they would defy the state laws and vote for McGovern.

The senator rejected any idea of changing his position on campaign issues to woo Wallace or any other of his opponents. After New York state's June 20 primary, the South Dakota senator said he planned to make a campaign trip into the South, and he said, "I don't have any Southern strategy. I will be saying the same things in the South as in other parts of the country."

In Florida on Friday, Billy Joe Camp, Wallace's press secretary, said Wallace will be moved fairly soon from Holy Cross to a hospital in Alabama for an operation to remove the bullet lodged in his spinal canal. Then, after a short recuperative period, Wallace expects to go to the convention that begins July 10.

Camp said Wallace would prefer to be on crutches or leg braces rather than a wheelchair. But, Camp quoted Wallace as saying, "Franklin Roosevelt had to use a wheelchair if I have to, I will."