

Larry Flynt says prayers for who tried to kill him

By BOB SMITH

LARRY FLYNT, faced with the possibility of never walking again, led prayers from his hospital bed last week for the men who tried to kill him.

Flynt, a born-again Christian, is convinced that he was gunned down on the orders of the CIA, to stop his probe into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"He has put those people at the top of his prayer list because he knows they need help," said Flynt's personal aide, Duke Campbell. The Flynt shooting, which has many similarities to the assassination attempt that left Alabama Gov. George Wallace confined to a wheelchair for life, occurred as Flynt and his lawyers were walking to the courthouse in Lawrenceville, Ga. Flynt was being tried on obscenity charges.

He was hit twice in the stomach. One bullet lodged near his spine and he was unable to move his legs. Doctors give him a 50-50 chance of walking again. The lawyer was hit in the arm.

Flynt, publisher of Hustler magazine, recently posted a \$1



Ruth Carter: At Flynt's bedside.

the gunmen

These people need the help of the Lord, says publisher shot down outside courthouse

million reward for information on the Kennedy assassination. He is convinced that he was shot to prevent the publication of evidence that would reveal the killers as members of the CIA.

"Larry believes that the CIA is trying to silence him. And I be-

lieve this as well," said his wife Althea. "We were on the verge of a major breakthrough in the investigation and this is why he was shot."

According to the Flynts, they have been the target of a number of threats since they devoted an entire issue of a West Coast publication to the assassination. A second issue purportedly will name "the real killers" of Kennedy and expose their CIA connection.

Mrs. Flynt said there were several warnings about "his health." In Washington, D.C., in January there was an attempt to poison Flynt, she said.

Only quick thinking by comedian Dick Gregory, who administered an enema that emptied his stomach of the poison, saved Flynt's life.

After the poisoning Flynt travelled with a bodyguard, but failed to take him to Lawrenceville.

Larry thought the people there were friendly and did not think there was any problem about safety," said Campbell.

"I'm sure this hasn't shaken his faith in mankind and I know that he has put his would-be killers at the top of his prayer list because he knows they need help," Campbell added.

Mark Lane, a senior editor for Flynt, said there was no doubt

king Michelle Phillips run?





Ambulance attendants rush a stretcher carrying the badly-wounded Flynt through the doors of an Atlanta hospital shortly after the incident.

that the shooting was meant to silence Flynt and stop the Kennedy investigation.

Lane said that, along with the names of Kennedy's killers, a document said to be a top-secret memo from former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to the CIA—sent before the assassination but relating to it—would be published if it could be authenticated.

"If he had been killed the investigation would probably have folded eventually, because of the lack of money. Larry believes in the investigation and is prepared to put his life on the line so that the truth can come out," Lane said.

"There is a very good possibility that federal police agencies—the FBI and CIA—were involved in the attempt on his life.

There has been a concentrated attempt by the agencies in the past to prevent an on-going investigation in the assassination."

Apart from his wife, relatives and company aides, visitors at Flynt's bedside included Screw magazine editor Al Goldstein, who himself faces obscenity charges in Kansas, and Ruth Carter Stapleton, President Carter's sister. Flynt claims Mrs. Stapleton was responsible for leading him back to God.

Campbell said that the shooting came just as Flynt was setting up the Larry Flynt Foundation for Human Development. The aide said that all the funds from Flynt's publishing company would go to the non-profit foundation, which would give grants to prominent scientists to study violence and other anti-social behavior.