
Stennis Better, But Condition Remains Grave

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. John C. Stennis was making satisfactory progress today, but his condition was still very serious and "the prognosis remains grave," hospital officials said.

Stennis, who was shot twice in a holdup last week, slept intermittently during the night, said a 6 a.m. CST statement from Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The statement said:

"The senator's condition remains unchanged from our last report. His temperature, which was slightly elevated yesterday, is down this morning. Sen. Stennis is awake, having slept intermittently during the night.

"His vital signs continue good. His surgeons still consider his progress satisfactory. His condition is still listed as very serious and the prognosis remains grave."

Surgeons at Walter Reed Army Medical Center said they are concerned now about infection and the condition of the senator's pancreas and small intestine.

Stennis, 71, was shot in the stomach and left thigh during a holdup in front of his Washington home on Jan. 30. The bullet that struck him in the stomach penetrated his pancreas and intestine.

Members of Stennis' family and President Nixon visited Stennis Wednesday. The President said afterward, "I think he's going to make it."

A bill was introduced in the Mississippi Senate Wednesday to authorize a \$50,000 reward for information leading to conviction of Stennis' assailants. Police have said they are looking for three male teenagers in connection with the shooting.

Stennis is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.
