

# Sen. Stennis Well on Road To Recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — After being near death, Sen. John C. Stennis is reported well on the road to recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center — walking some, seeing his family, keeping posted on things in his office.

A month ago, the 71-year-old Mississippi Democrat was shot twice and seriously wounded during a holdup in front of his home here. Washington police and the FBI have been concentrating on the case, but no arrests have been made. Rewards totaling about \$70,000 have been offered for information leading to the assailants of the Armed Services Committee chairman.

His physicians say Stennis is making a steady recovery, but his condition still is listed as "serious."

"He is now eating a regular diet and is walking more each day" an aide said. There is no indication how much longer he will be in the hospital, the aide said.

The senator has daily meetings with his administrative assistant and does some work in his hospital room. His wife, Coy, visits him daily. Stennis is not allowed to have visitors other than his family and administrative assistant.

The original police lookout, based on information from Stennis immediately after the shooting, described the holdup men as 16 or 17 years old, both slim and about 5 feet 8.

A few days ago, Stennis provided an additional description of the man who shot him as dark complexioned, in his early 20s or 30s, more than six feet tall, weighing 190 to 195 pounds and with close-cropped hair. Police on Tuesday released an artist's sketch of the assailant based on that information.

President Nixon directed the FBI to enter the case shortly after the shooting. A 1971 law makes it a federal crime to assault, kidnap or kill a member of Congress.

Malone Pitts, deputy chief of detectives of the Washington police department, told a reporter: "The investigation is continuing vigorously with a large detail of police. There have been no arrests. The search is concentrated in the metropolitan Washington area."