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SENATOR STENNIS
He visited alma mater

Sen. Stennis Optimistic On Recovery

Starkville, Miss.

Senator John C. Stennis (Dem-Miss.), critically wounded in a shooting outside his Washington home January 30, said here over the weekend that he was optimistic about his recovery.

"The doctor won't give me a date, but I'll be back before the summer's over," the 71-year-old senator said. "Before then I'll be doing some legislative work."

Stennis chose his golden class reunion at Mississippi State University to make his first public appearance since being shot in a robbery more than ten weeks ago.

"Today represents a first for me," the politically powerful chairman of the Senate Armed Services committee told former classmates and friends, who gave him a standing ovation when he showed up for the unpublicized visit to his alma mater.

"It is my first venture out from the hospital since I was taken there, and it is a happy one for me to be making tracks again on this wonderful campus," he said with a smile.

There had been no advance announcement of his plans to attend the annual spring alumni meeting, which featured the 50th reunion of the class of 1923. Stennis serves as life secretary for the class.

He later returned to Walter Reed medical center in Washington. *United Press*