

## Doctor's Report:

# 'Outcome Could Be Tragic'

NEW YORK — (AP) — A New York neurosurgeon today quoted a member of the team that performed brain surgery on Sen. Robert Kennedy as fearing "the outcome may be extremely tragic."

Dr. Lawrence Poole, professor of neurosurgery at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, gave that version of his conversation with Dr. Henry Cuneo.

"There was evidently serious damage to the cerebellum, also part of the right cerebral hemisphere . . . and also to the mid brain, which is the main cable connecting the brain itself with all the rest of the body.

"This mid brain deals with not only the function of motion in the arms and legs and sensation to the body but also with eye movements and even the life function itself,

such as blood pressure, breathing, heart rate.

"So it's a very critical area, and this was injured, and this is why I fear — as Dr. Cuneo indicated — the outcome may be extremely tragic."

Poole said, however, if Kennedy were to survive the physical damage, his "high intellectual powers" might well remain unimpaired.

