

PHYSICIANS WORK AMID NOISY CROWD

Tube Inserted in Colombo's
Throat to Restore Breath
—Heart Beat Is Regular

By JOHN SIBLEY

Joseph A. Colombo Sr. was unconscious and his breathing had stopped when he was wheeled through the emergency room doors at Roosevelt Hospital yesterday, minutes after bullets fell him at Columbus Circle.

Blood had coagulated on his face, and more was flowing from the wounds in his head.

As the emergency room became an electric combination of noisy confusion and calm efficiency, doctors shoved a rubber tube into Colombo's throat and down his trachea, ~~then~~ began rhythmically ~~moving~~ a plastic bag at the end of the tube to restore breathing. Colombo's other vital signs, including his heart beat, seemed all right.

By that time, the emergency room was filling with family members, friends, rally leaders and uniformed and plainclothes policemen.

"For God's sake, we're trying to run a hospital here," an exasperated physician shouted at a detective. Other doctors pleaded with the police to clear the room of unauthorized persons.

Word of the shooting had spread through the hospital, and dozens of employes crowded into the emergency room, hoping for a glimpse.

In a nearby room, almost totally ignored, lay the body of Colombo's attacker, identified by the police as Jerome A. Johnson of New Brunswick, N.J.

Now Colombo was ready to be moved. His naked body barely covered by a sheet, he was wheeled to an elevator, a bottle of intravenous fluid swinging from a pole on his stretcher.

Colombo was taken to an intensive-care unit on the second floor to be readied for surgery. Nearby, in a small lounge, sat his family, protected from inquisitive newsmen by private bodyguards and city policemen.

His wife, Lucille, and two of his sons, Anthony and Joseph Jr., rarely spoke as they sat with about 10 others.

Joseph Jr., who had ridden in the ambulance with his father, had blood spots on his pants. He explained, however, that the blood was his own—he had cut his finger while leaping into the ambulance.

Then a priest, the Rev. Louis Gigante, entered the hospital and administered last rites. Father Gigante was driving on the West Side Highway when he heard of the shooting on his car radio.

Standing vigil with the Co-



The New York Times

POLICE BARRIERS were set up at spot, marked by the victim's blood and eyeglasses, where Joseph A. Colombo Sr. was shot before starting time of rally at Columbus Circle.

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N.Y. Times

Colombo family was Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Jewish Defense League, which recently formed an alliance with Colombo's Italian-American organization.

Asked about possible motives for the shooting, Rabbi Kahane replied:

"Theorizing can create a great deal of passion. Joe Colombo came to us when we needed help. The bond between the two organizations has never been stronger."

The one man who appeared unperturbed by the tension and sense of urgency that pervaded the hospital was Dr. Irving Hansen, the neurosurgeon on whose skill Colombo's life might depend.

Shortly before he entered the operating room, Dr. Hansen was seen talking calmly with half a dozen medical students as they examined X-ray films of the patient's skull.