

Disagreement on Paralysis WALLACE STILL IMPROVING

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — George C. Wallace, elated by presidential primary triumphs in Michigan and Maryland, showed continued improvement from gunshot wounds today. But there was disagreement in medical circles regarding his chance of escaping permanent paralysis.

A medical bulletin giving the latest word on the condition of the Alabama governor, partially paralyzed since being hit by bullets Monday during an election rally, said:

"The governor spent a comfortable night. He is very alert and aware of his surroundings. He is reading the paper avidly. He is continuing to improve. All of his bodily functions are normal and stable.

"PARALYSIS OF THE legs remains unchanged.

"At this time, despite reports to the contrary, the exact nature of injury to the spinal cord cannot be determined until surgery is performed."

The bulletin, issued by Dr. Joseph F. Schanno, appeared to challenge published reports that Wallace already

faced permanent paralysis from the hips down because of damage to the spinal column.

The New York Times quoted Dr. Edgar Berman, retired Baltimore surgeon who helped assemble the surgical team that operated on Wallace Monday, as

saying, based on his conversations with other doctors, that "all indications point to permanent paralysis."

Berman, reached in Baltimore today about the Times report, said of his beliefs about Wallace's chance for recovery without paralysis: "I don't think he has a chance but no one can tell for sure until they get in there . . . until the operation, after surgery."

The Washington Post in today's editions reported that the bullet had severed Wallace's spinal cord. It quoted unnamed medical sources as saying chances of the governor ever walking again are "zero."

Earlier, Billy Joe Camp, Wallace's press secretary, told a reporter that the Post story was "unfounded."

CAMP said the governor had asked

Turn to Page 6, Column 1

Continued from Front Page

him this morning to get the latest vote totals from the two primaries.

"He was in good spirits," Camp said. "He was already aware he'd won the primaries."

There had been indications that Wallace's gunshot wound affecting the spine might not be as serious as had been feared.

The governor's wife, Cornelia, was reported to have been told by a neurosurgeon that the Post story of permanent paralysis of the legs was "invalid."

An aide of Wallace, Elvin Stanton, said the comment was made by Dr. Baltazar E. Perez, a staff member of Holy Cross hospital where the governor is being treated. Stanton said Mrs. Wallace asked Perez for his opinion after being informed of the Post report.

Dr. Perez refused to accept telephone calls but a secretary in his office said she had been instructed to tell inquiring newsmen that the Post report was "absolutely incorrect."

WALLACE HAD BEEN paralyzed from the waist down since he was shot at a campaign rally in Laurel, Md., Monday afternoon, but his campaign manager said Tuesday night the governor has "some slight sensation in one leg."

The encouraging news came as Wallace was receiving word of his big doubleheader primary victories, his first outside the South.

Wallace, who has been heavily sedated since undergoing five hours of surgery Monday night, awakened briefly to be told of his primary victories.

Aides said Wallace's wife, Cornelia, gave him the news; he nodded and grinned.

"HE KNOWS HE has won both states," Snider relayed later. "And he's very happy."

Snider said the votes in Maryland and Michigan were a mandate to go on: "We've got to continue."

Meanwhile, Arthur Herman Bremer, the 21-year-old, white Milwaukee man accused of wounding Wallace five times with a .38-caliber pistol, remained in the Baltimore County jail under \$200,000 federal bail. He was arrested minutes after the shooting.

Snider said the team of physicians attending Wallace at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring were guarded in

their expectations but that indications of recovery were improving.

"The X-rays showed the bullet which entered the body was fired down, entered in a downward course," Snider said. "The X-rays showed the bullet lay against the spine parallel with the nose upward; this would indicate that the force of the bullet was largely spent before it reached the spine."

Snider said tests showed there was no blood in the spinal fluid, and that since the bullet appeared to have been spent before reaching the spine "there may not be as much damage to the nerves as they had feared there was."

DOCTORS SAID THAT ultimately Wallace will require further surgery for removal of the bullet in the spinal-cord area.

A severed spinal column would mean permanent paralysis, but bruised or pinched nerves in the bundles surrounding the spinal column often restore themselves.

SNIDER SAID yesterday's victories, linked with Wallace's earlier successes, indicate a more universal appeal than critics and opponents had conceded earlier and make him a viable candidate outside the South.

Snider said Wallace's California plans are unsure but other aides have talked of a write-in campaign there. The Wallace camp has indicated Mrs. Wallace and other proxies may take up a speaking tour there.

Mrs. Wallace remained at the hospital where she has been near her husband since he was admitted minutes after the shooting. With her were Wallace's four children: Janie Lee, 12; George Jr., 21; Peggy Sue, 22; and Bobbi Jo Parsons, 28.

Authorities remained silent on possible motives for the shooting, which also injured three other persons in the election-eve crowd.

BUT THERE were indications that Bremer may have stalked Wallace through three states before the shooting. His trail in Milwaukee, Michigan and Maryland indicates he was a Wallace supporter and would-be campaign worker.

Bremer also was seen at a rally in Wheaton, Md., earlier Monday. While authorities were officially quiet on the investigation, sources disclosed that the stalking theory is the prime focus of the federal probe.