

Governor Off Critical List, Still Paralyzed

SILVER SPRING (Md.) — (UPI) — George Wallace was allowed to read newspaper accounts today of his big doubleheader election victory while bouncing back from an assassination attempt.

While still paralyzed from the waist down — possibly a permanent condition as a result of one of four bullet wounds suffered Monday at Laurel, Md. — Wallace was taken off the critical list at Holy Cross Hospital.

Arthur Herman Bremer, 21, of Milwaukee, arrested in the shooting, remained under tight Secret Service and police guard in Baltimore County Jail at Towson, Md.

Bremer's bail was set at \$200,000. He will be arraigned in U.S. District Court in Baltimore May 24 on federal charges of violating the 1968 Civil Rights Act and assaulting a federal officer. In addition he faces state charges on four counts of assault and intent to murder.

Asks for Newspaper

The director of Wallace's national campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, Charles Snider, said the 52 year old Alabama governor was alert this morning and one of the first things he asked for was a newspaper.

He had been informed late last night that he had won both the Michigan and Maryland primaries with hefty margins, and he was permitted to have newspapers to read about them, Snider said.

The head of the medical team caring for Wallace denied today a report by the Washington Post that Wallace's spinal cord had been severed by a bullet, still

lodged in his spinal column.

'Paralysis Unchanged'

"At this time, despite reports to the contrary, the exact nature of injuries to the spinal cord cannot be determined until surgery is performed," Dr. Joseph Schanno said. "The paralysis of his legs remains unchanged."

Schanno had said earlier that Wallace was paralyzed from the waist down by a

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bullet lodged at the base of his spinal column. The doctors have said the paralysis could be permanent.

The Post quoted "sources close to the operation team" that performed five hours of surgery on Wallace Monday night that it would be a miracle if Wallace ever walked again.

'No Truth' to Report

A spokesman for Wallace quoted one of the surgeons as saying "there is no truth" to the report.

Two Alabama doctors who flew here to aid in Wallace's treatment insisted that no one knows yet about the spinal damage pending a second operation.

Snider said today, "There is no indication of damage to

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the spinal column. At the same time, we don't know of any sensations he is able to feel (from the waist down.)"

Aide Mentions Feeling

There had been one report that a Wallace aide had mentioned that the governor had some feeling in the lower part of his body. But from all indications, he has been paralyzed in the lower part of his body and both legs since being shot after speaking at the Laurel rally.

Dr. Baltazar Perez, a neurosurgeon who is part of a team on the Wallace case, was quoted by a Wallace aide as saying, "There is absolutely no truth to the report that the spinal cord has been severed."

There was no word when the second operation might take place, or whether Wallace might be taken back to Alabama before that.

Snider was interviewed on a TV program this morning.

Campaign Plans Continue

He said plans were proceeding for continuing the Wallace campaign and said "I certainly do" when asked if he thought Wallace had a chance to get the Democratic presidential nomination at Miami Beach in July.

While Wallace aides have

said he would campaign from a wheel chair if necessary, there appeared to be little if any chance he could be well enough to make such the convention which starts public appearances prior to July 10.

But Snider said, "We are talking now about Phase 3" of the campaign and that "the type of individual he is, we don't look for him (Wallace) to be down very long."

Dr. Schanno's statement also said:

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

Schanno's statement followed one by the Alabama doctors, including Wallace's personal physician, Dr. H. H. Hutchinson of Montgomery, that it was not known whether the spinal cord was severed.

Ohio Revives Gun Measure

COLUMBUS (Ohio) — (UPI) — The Ohio senate, responding to the shooting of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, has adopted a bill setting a mandatory nonprobationary prison sentence of one to three years for carrying a firearm while committing a crime of violence.

The Senate's 26 to 5 approval yesterday of the measure, which had lain dormant since last December, was timed deliberately by Senate sponsors despite opponents' contentions that the measure would do little to get at the root of the problem of violent crimes.