

Surgeon Doubts Wallace Can Regain Use of Legs

NYTimes

By JAMES T. WOOTEN
Special to The New York Times

MAY 18 1972

SILVER SPRING, Md., May 17—Gov. George C. Wallace's neurosurgeon said today that the Governor had less than a 50-50 chance of regaining the use of his paralyzed legs.

"A full recovery is now out of the hands of the doctors," Dr. J. Garber Galbraith said. "It is now a matter of nature—and I have to say that I have deep reservations about his chances for full recovery."

The 57-year-old professor of neurosurgery at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham flew to the wounded Democratic Presidential candidate's side today for the second time since he was shot four times in Laurel, Md., Monday afternoon.

In Washington, a Senate committee, spurred by the attempt to assassinate Mr. Wallace, voted to prohibit the sale of most snub-nosed pistols, the type used in the attack on the Governor.

Since Monday, the 52-year-old Mr. Wallace has been para-

lyzed below the hips, a condition that was produced when one of the bullets discharged at a shopping center rally struck the spinal column. A second bullet was removed from the Alabama Governor's abdominal cavity Monday after five hours of surgery.

Before leaving this suburb of Washington last night, Dr. Galbraith and the Governor's personal physician, Dr. Hamilton H. Hutchinson of Montgomery announced that the bullet pressing against Mr. Wallace's spine would have to be removed in a second operation.

Dr. Galbraith gave today the first detailed description of the spinal wound that has paralyzed the Governor from the hips down.

He said the bullet was resting within the spinal canal, between the bony structure of the spinal column and the spinal cord.

It entered the canal without

Continued on Page 37, Column 3

Baltimore county jail in Towson, Md.

A Reporter who flew with William Bremer and his 17-year-old son, Roger, from Milwaukee to Baltimore's Friendship Airport said the father had told him he was apprehensive about reprisals against him as a result of the attempted assassination.

Federal investigators are still trying to reconstruct the movements of the suspect in the days prior to the campaign rally at Laurel, a suburb of Washington.

Nicholas Zarvas, a 37-year-old Secret Service agent who was wounded in the throat, is now listed in "satisfactory condition" at Leland Memorial Hospital in Landover, Md., and 34-year-old Mrs. Dora Thompson, a Wallace worker in Maryland, is said to be "recovering nicely" at Holy Cross Hospital from a leg wound.

Interest in News Reports

The other wounded person, Capt. E. C. Dothard of the Alabama state police returned to Montgomery last night. He was superficially wounded in the abdomen.

The Governor was said to have read several newspapers this morning and to have shown

an avid interest in their accounts of his victories in primary elections in Maryland and Michigan. Billy Joe Camp, his press secretary, said he did not know if Mr. Wallace had seen an article in The Washington Post that quoted "medical sources" at the hospital as saying his spinal cord was severed and he would never walk again.

Shortly after Dr. Galbraith arrived from Birmingham, Brig. Gen. Walter Tkach, the chief White House physician, came to the hospital. He said he was there to consult with the Governor's doctors and declined to comment on speculation that Mr. Wallace would be transferred to Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Maj. Gen. William H. Moncrief Jr., the commanding officer at the Army hospital, also came to Holy Cross Hospital today and spoke both with physicians and members of the Governor's staff. He also declined to comment on the possibility that the Governor would be moved.

Activity at Walter Reed

A spokesman at the Army's public information office at the Pentagon said Walter Reed Army Hospital was being "geared up" for the possible presence of Mr. Wallace and members of the news media were advised to begin installing telephone lines there.

Personnel at the military hospital were said to have been preparing its Presidential suite today. The four-room complex, which includes a kitchen, was offered to Mr. Wallace yesterday by President Nixon. A spokesman at the hospital said Mrs. Cornelia Wallace, the Governor's 33-year-old wife, would be permitted to stay in the suite should his second operation take place there, but his children would not be allowed its use.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

damaging the column through a finger-size opening called an intervertebral foramen. It is through this aperture that the 12th thoracic intercostal nerve connects with the spinal cord. The nerve controls feeling and movement on the lower right side of the body.

The bullet has been located at a point just between the 12th thoracic vertebra and the first lumbar vertebra, or just beneath the lowest rib.

Dr. Galbraith said tests had shown there was no compression on the spinal cord and no blockage within the spinal canal, but he said there was little doubt in his mind that the bullet had "traumatized" the spinal cord and damaged the intercostal nerve.

Nevertheless, Dr. Galbraith predicted that barring unforeseen complications, Mr. Wallace "should be able to be out and about" within four to six weeks if the second operation takes place within the next week to 10 days. The additional surgery, he said, will not greatly improve the Governor's chances for the recovery of the use of the lower part of his body but

is necessary to prevent future complications such as infection or excessive scar tissue.

Dr. Balthazar Perez said there was blood in Mr. Wallace's spinal fluid. The fluid is normally colorless.

The second operation will take place within the next week to 10 days if the Governor's condition remains stable, Dr. Galbraith said, but he added that there had been no final decision on where the surgery would be performed — here at Holy Cross Hospital, at nearby Walter Reed Army Hospital or in Alabama.

According to Dr. Galbraith, the Governor has been told the guarded prognosis for his recovery and "has already begun preparing himself for a less than vigorous life."

When informed of his condition and the gloomy forecast for its improvement, Mr. Wallace, according to Dr. Galbraith said, "I'm going to fight it. I'll make out."

Suspect Has Visitors

Meanwhile, Arthur Herman Bremer, the 21-year-old busboy from Milwaukee who is charged with shooting the Governor and three other persons, was visited by his father, brother and court-appointed lawyer today at the



Dave Cloud via Associated Press

CHEERING NEWS: Paper held by Gov. George C. Wallace, recuperating at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md., reports Mr. Wallace's primary victories in elections Tuesday. With the Governor is his wife, Cornelia.