

# WALLACE REPORT

## 'Less Than 50-50 He'll Ever Walk'

Associated Press

### Silver Spring, Md.

One of George C. Wallace's doctors said yesterday there is "less than a 50-50 chance" the Alabama governor ever will walk again.

Even if he can walk, it will probably be only with the aid of leg braces, the doctor indicated.

Meanwhile, Wallace continued in good spirits, chatting with hospital visitors and eagerly reading newspaper accounts of his primary election victories in Maryland and Michigan.

### SPINE

Dr. James Galbraith, a University of Alabama neurosurgeon who has been attending Wallace, said a bullet which cut him down at a campaign rally Monday is lodged in the spine but is causing no pressure on the spinal cord.

He said the bullet wedged itself between two vertebrae, protruding into the bony canal that shields the nerve cord but not obstructing the flow of fluid that nourishes it.

Galbraith, speaking at a

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late afternoon news conference, said that although the bullet didn't shatter any bone in the spine, the shock of its impact caused the present paralysis and this might ease in time.

But he said Wallace hasn't regained any feeling in his legs, and the longer he goes without improvement the worse are chances for an eventual recovery. "There is less than a 50-50 chance," he said.

### SURGERY

Galbraith said surgery will be performed to remove the bullet within another week or ten days, and that it will be a full three months or more before Wallace can recover to whatever extent is possible.

He said none of his patients had ever recovered fully from such an injury, and that at best such patients walk with the aid of a leg brace.

Official word of his condition came in a morning medical bulletin from Dr. Joseph Schanno, his surgeon.

"The governor spent a comfortable night," Schanno said. "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."

Schanno said also the Alabama governor's legs remain paralyzed and that "the exact nature of injury to the spinal cord cannot be determined until surgery is performed."

### VITALITY

One visitor to Holy Cross Hospital said Wallace showed tremendous vitality and had a firm handshake yesterday. "He was more coherent than I was," said the friend, Robert Lichtenstein, who is a New York real estate man and a cousin

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of Wallace's wife Cornelia.

Lichtenstein said Wallace spotted him looking into the hospital room and motioned him in. He said Wallace lay in bed with the adjustable upper portion elevated partially.

"I was amazed at him, and his strength," Lichtenstein said. He recounted reading aloud newspaper accounts of Tuesday's Democratic primary elections, and said Wallace became impatient and asked to read them himself.

### VICTORIES

Wallace won 51 per cent of the Democratic votes in Michigan, 39 per cent in Maryland.

He expressed hope "that his campaign would go on to Oregon, New Mexico and California," Lichtenstein said. Wallace's campaign manager Charles Snider said Tuesday that future efforts will be in Oregon, New Mexico and Rhode Island, with a possible write-in drive in California.

Galbraith said Wallace won't be able to get around, even in a wheelchair, for four to six more weeks. This probably will rule out any campaign appearances until shortly before the July 10 Democratic National Convention, if indeed it does not rule them out altogether.

Wallace aides have said he is prepared to campaign from a wheelchair, if necessary.

### RECOVERY

Galbraith, who said there is only "a slim chance" Wallace will walk, said that removing the bullet which caused the present nerve damage won't have any effect on whether Wallace recovers.

Removing the bullet is a precaution against infection, he said. Recovery depends

on how badly the nerve was damaged at the moment of impact. He said recovery is in the hands of nature, not in the hands of doctors.

Galbraith also said the bullet did sever a branch nerve leading from the spinal cord. He said this nerve carries sensations from the skin in the right groin.

### INDICATIONS

In another development, Dr. Edgar Berman, a retired Baltimore County surgeon who helped assemble a team of surgeons who operated on Wallace after Monday's shooting, agreed with Schanno's morning statement that it will take further surgery to tell whether Wallace will walk again. But Berman said he believes "the bulk of the indications" point to permanent paralysis.

However, Berman denied reports that there is no chance that Wallace ever will walk. He said in a statement:

"As of now, he is paralyzed and the indications are there is no basic diagnostic evidence his cord was severed. This can only be determined by an operation. His X-rays were inconclusive so everything is dependent on the exploratory."

Meanwhile, Arthur Bremer, the 21-year-old Milwaukeean accused in the Monday shooting remained in jail under \$200,000 bond. Authorities continued to withhold any comment on motivation or other details.

There was speculation throughout the day that Wallace would accept President Nixon's offer and be moved to the presidential suite in Walter Reed Army Hospital. But the Governor's No. 2 security officer, Alabama State Patrol Lieutenant Lloyd Jemmison, told newsmen Wallace definitely would not be moved yesterday. He didn't rule out a later move.