

Nixon Sees Wallace, Finds

SFXaminer

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SILVER SPRING (Md.) — (UPI) — President Nixon paid a surprise hospital visit to Gov. George Wallace today and reported "you would think he was just in for a tonsillectomy or something like that."

Nixon stopped off at Holy Cross Hospital en route back

to the White House from Camp David, Md., where he has spent the past two days in seclusion preparing for his summit meeting with the Russians next week.

Nixon said the 52 year old Alabama governor "wished me well" on the trip. "I told him that when I returned I

would see to it, if he wanted to, that he got a briefing on some of the things we discuss in the Soviet Union."

Arriving just before 9 a.m., Nixon visited about 40 minutes with Wallace, still paralyzed from the waist down from a spinal injury suffered in an attempted as-

sassination Monday at nearby Laurel, Md.

Just before the President arrived, the hospital issued a medical bulletin saying Wallace's temperature had declined somewhat and that he had spent "a good night," although he still had no feeling in his legs.

Him 'Ace High'

Nixon told reporters that Wallace's eyes were bright and "he is very alert and in good spirits. He has not been depressed."

He then described Wallace's mood as "ace high" — more typical to a tonsillectomy patient "rather than what he has been through."

Nixon added, "My own view is that when a man or woman has a strong, vital spirit, a will to live, a desire to contribute . . . that is the critical factor."

"If, after all he has suffered, he did not have that kind of will to live, he would

have a serious prognosis."

Nixon renewed his offer of the presidential suite at nearby Walter Reed Army Medical Center, but he said the governor, while saying he might accept later, "wants to get back to Ala-

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bama, which is understandable."

In Montgomery, Ala., Wallace's office said there was no indication the governor might be brought back to Montgomery.

No Politics

Nixon said he and Wallace did not discuss politics.

Billy Joe Camp, Wallace's press secretary, said there was "a good chance that Wallace would appear on television personally before the Democratic National Convention begins" in Miami Beach. The governor's backers are considering a wheelchair campaign, if necessary.

Dr. Alfred J. Luessenhop, a neurosurgeon on the faculty of the Georgetown University Medical School, said in an interview that chances for Wallace's full recovery was decreasing.

2-Day Deadline

"If there is no recovery of function within two days, the statistical probability of any useful recovery is remote," Luessenhop said.

Luessenhop, who has not

treated Wallace but is considered a leading authority on spinal injuries, also said he believed Wallace could be campaigning in a wheelchair within a month if there were no further complications.

Wallace still must undergo surgery for removal of the bullet. That is expected to be performed in about a week.

Second Gun

Maryland state officials, meantime, reported that a piece - by - piece search of a car registered to Arthur H. Bremer, 21, Milwaukee, accused of shooting Wallace, had turned up a second pistol.

Prince Georges County police said they found a 9 mm automatic in a door panel of the car when they tore it apart and searched it after the FBI had conducted a regular search. Wallace was shot with a snub - nosed .38. One of the slugs caused Wallace's paralysis when it lodged near his spine. The revolver was recovered at the scene.