

Mrs. Wallace Feared

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Mrs. George C. Wallace threw herself across her husband's blood-stained body moments after an assassin shot him down because she thought more bullets would be fired at him.

As the Alabama governor lay bleeding on the ground, she saw that his head and heart were not protected, and she fell on him, she has revealed to friends.

Mrs. Wallace, 33, says she realized, without fully knowing why, that her husband was still alive.

She saw the wounds, the blood on his chest and abdomen, and her first thought was that they were not fatal.

Her next thought, she recalled, was that since he had not been killed the assassins would shoot again.

Mrs. Wallace said she did not believe she was hysterical during those moments last Monday, or that she lost control of herself.

Those who rode in the ambulance with her to the hospital here after the shooting — there were 12 persons inside the vehicle — do not recall that she was hysterical, either.

Her first words as she entered the ambulance were:

"I thought they might shoot him in the head." She repeated that remark to friends when recalling the shooting.

Mrs. Wallace was coming out of a nearby bank to join her husband when he was shot. The shooting occurred at Laurel, Md., while Wallace was shaking hands after making a campaign speech in a shopping center.

As she walked toward him, Mrs. Wallace said, she heard the shots and for a few seconds thought they were firecrackers.

Then she knew they were not, because the sounds were too close to her husband and she saw him fall.

As the ring of bodyguards around Wallace opened in the confusion, she said, she saw her husband lying on the ground. She then rushed to him.

Mrs. Wallace has been staying since in a room on the seventh floor of Holy Cross Hospital here.

Wallace is paralyzed from the waist down. A neurosurgeon who has attended him said he had less than a 50 per cent chance of using his legs again.

More Shots

Mrs. Wallace does not believe that.

She tells friends that she has seen her husband overcome odds before and that this is the greatest challenge of his life and that she expects him to overcome it, too.

The paralysis was caused by a bullet that penetrated Wallace's stomach and lodged in his spinal column.

He also suffered two wounds in his right arm, on the back and shoulder and in the chest from the four or five bullets the assassin fired into him from close range with a .38-caliber pistol.

The assailant has been identified as Arthur Herman Bremer, a 21-year-old white busboy from Milwaukee.

Mrs. Wallace has told friends and relatives that "if the doctors say George can't walk again, that'll be a real challenge for him."

Physicians said yesterday that Wallace's condition remains stable and his temperature ranges near normal. Blood pressure and heart action were stable, it was reported, and his kidney function was described as normal.

L.A. Times Service



Mrs. Wallace as she threw herself across her husband's body