

Wallace, in Visit With Reporters, Is Buoyed by His Oregon Showing

SILVER SPRING, Md., May 24 (UPI)—Cheered by his showing in the Oregon primary, Gov. George C. Wallace visited today with a group of reporters for the first time since he was wounded and told them, "They say I'm doing fine."

Three network correspondents, a reporter for The Birmingham News, a cameraman and a light technician spent about 10 minutes in the Governor's Holy Cross Hospital room while silent television film was taken.

'They're All the Same'

The reporters, who had all traveled extensively with Mr. Wallace, chatted with the 52-year-old Alabamian and did not question him.

Governor Wallace, who was shot May 15 while campaigning for the Presidency, said he was "sorry it had to end this way."

"There won't be any more speeches for you fellows," he joked.

"That's all right, George," said Mr. Wallace's wife, Cor-

nelia, 32. "They're all the same anyway. Everybody knows the punch line."

Steve Bell, an American Broadcasting Company correspondent, and Al Fox, reporter for The News, briefed other newsmen on the Governor's remarks.

Later, the two were summoned back to the Governor's room. Mr. Bell said Mr. Wallace explained in the second interview that his earlier statement about being sorry the campaign had ended as it did referred to the Maryland campaign, which ended when he was shot in Laurel, Md.

"What I meant was, I am sorry it had to happen," the reporters quoted Mr. Wallace as having said. "The campaign is not over or anything like that. Why, I ran second in Oregon without even going out there."

Mr. Bell asked if Mr. Wallace planned to be at the national convention.

"Oh yes, I plan to be there," Mr. Wallace replied.

Before the newsmen came, Governor Wallace was awakened at 8 A.M. and told that he had finished second to Senator George McGovern of South Dakota in the Oregon voting.

"Oh, that's great," Mr. Wallace said, according to Elvin Stanton, an aide. "That's real fine. We didn't even get to go there."

Relatives in Room

Mr. Wallace is paralyzed from the waist down because of a bullet lodged near his spine. The latest medical bulletin said he had shown "marked improvement" over the last 24 hours, although the paralysis persisted.

Mr. Bell said that the Governor was weak and talked in a low voice.

Mr. Bell said he had said, "Governor, you look good."

He said Mr. Wallace had replied: "You think so, Steve? They say I'm doing fine."

In addition to his wife, Mr. Wallace's son, George Jr., his two oldest daughters, Mrs. Bob-

bie Jo Parsons and Peggy Sue Wallace, and his brother, Jack, were in the room at the time of the filming.

Describing the hospital routine, Mr. Wallace said, "They make you work harder in the hospital than they do on the campaign."

He had high praise for the doctors and staff.

"If anything's ever going to

happen to you, make sure it's near Holy Cross Hospital," Mr. Wallace said.

Mr. Wallace must undergo a second operation to remove the bullet from his spine. Asked if it would be performed in Alabama, the Governor said, "You always want to be home, but I want to be here the proper length of time."



FAMILY VISIT: Gov. George C. Wallace with two of his children, George Jr. and Peggy Sue, at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md., yesterday. With them is his wife.

Associated Press