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Wallace's Grueling

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"Sometimes you wonder about the strain of another campaign, but if he didn't do it, he would wither on the vine and die."

**A
News
Analysis**

It was Cornelia Wallace in Scotland discussing her husband, George C. Wallace, at the end of the Alabama governor's six-city tour of Western Europe.

The comment bears out what some people have known about Wallace since he survived an assassination attempt in 1972. He thrives on large doses of politics, which seem to do him more good than any medication.

It does not, however, answer the question of whether he could become a serious, viable candidate for the White House, or whether he could serve effectively if he won the Presidency.

"What astounded me was how deaf he was," said a Briton who met Wallace in London and talked with him privately. "You really have to bellow at him. It could be an even worse handicap (than being crippled).

"How the hell can you run the White House if you can't understand anything people say?"

Wallace's deafness has bothered him for some time, and it is becoming worse.

A West German official said Wallace looked a "physical wreck" and was hard of hearing.

But appearances are deceiving in Wallace's case. Sitting in his wheelchair, he almost always looks haggard and frail. He never looked worse during his trip than he did one morning in Paris — sickly, his face splattered with red marks, his eyes barely open.

But an hour later he delivered the most fiery speech of the tour at the American Club of Paris.

"I can still talk tough when I want to," he remarked later.

The main reason for his European tour — six cities in 13 days — was to show him as a strong, healthy candidate for President, picking up some foreign expertise.

Wallace was photographed by his aides for a documentary film that will show him zipping through Western Europe, meeting with dignitaries, bustling about the capitals.

When he runs for the Demo-



An aide helped Governor George Wallace from his car as he arrived in Brussels for a meeting with the Belgian foreign minister

cratic presidential nomination, few people will see him physically — many fewer than in previous campaigns, when he took every opportunity to press the flesh.

Wallace plans to use national television, instead, and he has the money to pay for it.

The films and photographs, however, will not show his many inactive hours — mornings, afternoons and evenings — during the tour.

The meetings he attended were, for the most part, briefings and courtesy calls.

The Wallace campaign, the governor's vehicle for his presidential race, allowed no reporters to fly with Wallace on the 15,000-mile trip, asserting that there were enough seats only for the 21-person entourage. But, it was learned, there were some extra seats, and some observers be-

lieved that Wallace simply did not want newsmen aboard the plane observing and reporting his helpless state.

During his trip, as he has before, Wallace kept reminding everyone that President Franklin D. Roosevelt was confined to a wheelchair, too. But FDR was a polio victim partly paralyzed in his legs. Wallace is completely paralyzed from the waist down and cannot control his urinary and bowel functions.

His reply to this, however, is, "I'm only paralyzed from the waist down, not the neck up like some people I know."

He requires almost constant care, but does as much or more for himself as anyone in his condition could accomplish.

There were no doctors or nurses along on the European trip. Only Eddie (Doc) Maxwell, a

European Trip

black ex-convict who is Wallace's valet, was present to serve day and night.

And Eddie Maxwell doesn't talk about his boss.

"He is not a trained therapist, but he reminds the governor of all the things he is supposed to do," Dr. Hamilton Hutchinson, the Wallace family physician, said of Maxwell.

Hutchinson, in an interview before Wallace left for Europe, said the governor was a healthy man; for a paraplegic, able to do what a national candidate should do. "If he wins," Hutchinson said, "he's physically able to perform the duties of the office."

Hutchinson said Wallace is taking the medication tegretol to combat the pain from his spinal cord trauma.

Wallace calls the pain "paraplegic discomfort," and Hutchinson said, "It still comes and goes and it always will."

But Wallace seems to have his reaction to pain much more under control than he did two years ago. It takes an acute observer now to notice when it starts.

Wallace chomps down on his cigar holder to hide it. Or he may place his hand casually on his side and gently rub it. He may flinch in mid-sentence, or gasp slightly, or his eyes will flicker elsewhere momentarily.

"Wallace may not have impressed everyone with his interest in foreign affairs, and he may look like the devil, but he won some points for his courage," said an American in London who saw him.

Cornelia Wallace, a frank woman, said her husband no

longer suffers the fits of depression that struck him for days after the assassination attempt.

"What I got I can handle now," he said in an interview.

"I came here to show people I'm not dying," he repeated several times during his tour.

Wallace got started late each day, sometimes at noon, in order to get as much rest as possible. His doctor has said it takes him two to three times as long as the average person to prepare himself in the morning, as it would any paraplegic.

The governor skipped his usual 45-minute morning exercise period during the trip, saying he got the same workout getting into and out of his car several times a day with the help of his bodyguards.

The exercising deters the skin ulcers and sores paraplegics suffer.

But there are other problems common to paraplegics, such as urinary infections, ulcers, susceptibility to viruses, and calcium degeneration that can lead to broken bones.

Wallace broke his left shinbone last summer, but did not realize it for a day. Then he had to be placed in a heavy, hip-high cast.

All in all, the problems would seem overwhelming for a presidential candidate, or a President. But then, not many people believed — after Wallace was shot and almost killed that day in May, 1972 — that he could ever again become a contender for the Presidency.