

Med

24 NOV 1963

CONNALLY GAINS, DOCTORS REPORT

New York Times (New York)

Turn May Have Saved Life -
Full Recovery Likely

Nov. 24, 1963
page 6, col. 6

by John Herbers
Special to The New York Times

Dallas, Nov. 23 - Gov. John B. Connally Jr. was reported in satisfactory condition today with a bullet wound suffered immediately after President Kennedy was assassinated.

Physicians said that the 46-year old Governor of Texas was expected to suffer no disabling after-effects. He will remain in the hospital for 10 to 14 days.

Governor and Mrs. Connally were riding in the seat ahead of President and Mrs. Kennedy yesterday when a sniper's bullet struck the President in the head. The Governor had turned to see what had happened when he was struck in the back by another bullet.

Dr. Tom Shires, chief of surgeons at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School, said the Governor probably would have been killed, if he had not turned.

"After consulting with Mrs. Connally and others on the scene," Dr. Shires said, "the consensus is that the Governor was quite fortunate that he turned to see what happened to the President. If he had not turned to his right, there is a good chance he probably would have been shot through the heart. As it was, the bullet caused a tangential wound."

.....
Physicians said that the bullets (sic) had traveled through the Governor's body and had broken his fifth rib. It then struck his right wrist, causing a compound fracture, and lodged in his left thigh. A fragment from the rib punctured his lung.

bullets?
misprint?

.....
The sniper's bullet caused Governor Connally to slump to the floor of the car. Mrs. Connally held him in her arms on the way to Parkland Hospital.

Surgery was performed by Dr. Robert R. Shaw, surgeon and professor of the Southwestern Medical School. Dr. Shaw said that the possibility of infection was the principal danger remaining.

(end)