

THE WALLACE SHOOTING

Governor Badly Wounded--  
Young Suspect Is Seized

# Wallace Shot at Rally In Maryland--5 Hours Of Exploratory Surgery

Washington Post Service

Washington

Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama, campaigning across Maryland for the Presidency, was shot and seriously wounded yesterday by a young assailant dressed in red, white and blue.

The 52-year-old Governor, in his second presidential campaign, was shot at close range following his speech at a Laurel, Md., shopping center, in the suburbs of the Nation's capital. Wounded in the chest and stomach, Wallace was reportedly paralyzed by "spinal complications."

A spokesman at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md., said the Governor's condition is "stable in that there is no immediate danger of his expiring."

Three persons traveling with Wallace were also wounded in the shooting. Police immediately arrested a crew-cut blond-haired young man who was identified as Arthur Bremer, 21, of Milwaukee, Wis. The man was in the rally audience—dressed in a red, white and blue shirt and socks, wearing a Wallace campaign button. He had been seen earlier in the day at a Wallace rally in Washington, D.C.

The suspect was described by acquaintances as a loner with a penchant for pornography.

## Paralysis Confirmed

A doctor who was inside the hospital but not in the operating room said that Wallace "felt no sensation from the waist down." A second doctor who works on the staff of Holy Cross Hospital confirmed that Wallace was indeed paralyzed when he was taken into surgery.

George Magnum, a Wallace campaign aide, said the 52-year-old Governor was taken into the recovery room shortly after 10:30 p.m. EDT following about five hours of exploratory surgery.

A doctor who assisted in the surgery said Wallace was struck by five bullets, two of which caused serious wounds. Magnum said one bullet was removed but another, near the spine, was left in place for the time being.

Just before midnight, one of the six doctors who performed the surgery said "we expect a good recovery" and that the Governor might "be able to go home in five to ten days."

But Dr. Joseph Schanno, a vascular surgeon, also cautioned that "there is some paralysis at this time from the hips down" and "it is difficult to predict what the spinal problem will be."

At a briefing early today, Schanno said Wallace was awake, alert, resting comfortably and making progress "as well as we can expect."

## Reaction of Rivals

Governor Wallace's rivals expressed horror at the shooting, the fourth prominent American political figure to be gunned down in a decade. President Nixon swiftly ordered extra security precautions, dispatching Secret Service agents to guard Representative Shirley Chisholm, a previously unprotected candidate, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, a non-candidate whose brothers both died by assassination.

Wallace was cut down about 4 p.m. EDT in the parking lot of the Laurel Shopping Center, about 30

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miles from Washington.

A young man wearing sunglasses thrust his right hand between two other people as Wallace, having shed his coat, began shaking hands. In the young man's hand was a pistol. His arm was struck by the Governor's security men, but he managed to get on several shots at point-blank range.

Wallace fell backward, his arms outspread. As he lay on the pavement of the shopping center parking lot, and as the security men grabbed the suspected assailant, blood began to show through his blue shirt.

Almost at once, the Governor's wife of 16 months, Cornelia, knelt over him. Her yellow dress was stained by blood from the wound.

Eye-witnesses gave conflicting accounts of four to six shots being fired at Wallace. Wounded with the governor were: His personal bodyguard, Alabama state trooper Captain E. C. Dothard, hit in the stomach; Dora Thompson, of Rogers Heights, Md., a Wallace campaign volunteer, hit in the leg; and a Secret Service agent, Nick Zarvos.

One eye-witness in the crowd, Jack Ingram, 27, of Huntingtown, Md., described the encounter:

"I was standing to the Governor's right, trying to get my hand in there," Ingram said, as Wallace moved down the rope cord, shaking hands. The alleged assailant, said Ingram, was among those trying to get Governor Wallace to approach close enough for a personal greeting.

"He kept yelling, 'Hey George! Hey George!'" Ingram recounted, then: "The man stuck the gun right in his stomach and fired."

Lying on the pavement, Wallace's eyes remained open and he was apparently conscious but the expression on his face was blank.

Dr. Bryan Warren, 76, of Laurel, a spectator at the rally, heard the shots and went to Wallace's side.

## WOUND

"He was lying on his side," Warren said, "perfectly conscious and lucid, calm . . . I pulled his shirt up and there was a gunshot



Map locates Laurel, Md. where Wallace was shot

wound in his lower right chest. It looked like it might have been a .32 or a .38 (caliber). I knew it had to hit the lower part of the lung and liver."

At first, policemen and aides rushed the governor to a nearby staff station wag-



on, then the ambulance arrived. "Right then," said Warren, "The Governor said, 'I'm having trouble breathing,' and I felt his pulse again and I could feel no pulse. I was quite worried but there was nothing to do except let the ambulance take him away."

According to a Laurel rescue officer, Governor Wallace was conscious throughout the ride to the hospital. "He was very calm, he was in pain," said Sergeant Dennis Lunsford. "All he said was that he hurt."

### THREE

The Governor's press aide, Billy Joe Camp, said there were three major wounds, in the abdomen and chest.

At the scene of the shooting, a vast L-shaped shopping mall, the crowd of 1000 turned from warm applause to sudden panic, screaming and running at the sound of gunfire—"like firecrackers," the witnesses said, sharp and loud.

An officer instantly knocked the gun from the hands of the attacker and a swarm of eight or ten Prince Georges county police jumped on him and rushed him to a squad car. He was roughed up slightly, according to the county prosecutor, but not seriously injured.

Governor Wallace was at the very peak of his maverick political career — winner of three presidential primaries so far.

### FILM

A CBS-TV camera crew, filming the Laurel rally, found it had a film of the blond assailant approaching Governor Wallace with gun in hand, firing five shots.

Until this, Governor Wallace was riding a new crest of influence in his political career. He had won three presidential primaries so far in 1972, was favored to win today in Maryland and Michigan, and is sure to have at least 200 delegates at the Democratic National Convention in July.

Wallace was harassed by hecklers — and a few rocks and tomatoes — during his

four days of Maryland campaigning over the past two weeks, but polls and politicians figured he would probably finish first. As a volatile personality, he probably had a bit more protection than the other presidential candidates, since several Alabama troopers were traveling with him.

### PROTECTED

On the platform, he was protected by a three-sided armor-plated lectern, decorated with bunting. At Lau-

rel, someone added a bouquet of longstem roses. At least two Prince Georges county policemen were stationed on the shopping center rooftop, surveying for potential snipers, when Governor Wallace's caravan arrived about 3:15 p.m., fresh from another rally at the Wheaton Plaza Shopping Center in Montgomery county. As many as 50 policemen patrolled the rally site, set up in a roped-off area in front of the Equitable Trust Bank, which sits in the middle of the parking lot.

Before a larger crowd earlier at Wheaton Plaza, Wallace had been heckled persistently by young people. Someone threw a couple of tomatoes and Wallace answered obscene chants with: "Your vocabulary is mighty limited if that's all you can say is nasty words like that."