

MAY 16 1972

President Concerned Over Shooting

By JOHN HERBERS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 15—Immediately after hearing of the shooting of Gov. George C. Wallace, President Nixon today called Mrs. Wallace at her husband's bedside and told her that she had the hopes and prayers of himself and Mrs. Nixon for the Governor's recovery.

He then issued the following statement:

"I join Americans everywhere in deep concern for Governor Wallace's condition. I ask all Americans to join me in praying for his speedy and full recovery and also for that of the others who were wounded in this senseless and tragic incident.

"Our nation has suffered more than enough already from the intrusion of violence into its political processes. We must all stand together to eliminate its vicious threat from our public life, we must not permit the shadow of violence to fall over our country again."

Governor Wallace's chief opponents for the Democratic Presidential nomination, Senators George McGovern of South Dakota and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, immediately canceled all further campaign activities indefinitely.

Senator McGovern said, "All of us must count this vicious assault on Governor Wallace as an assault on everything dear and valued on our national life.

"So let us say a prayer for the Governor's recovery and the healing of our nation," Mr. McGovern said in a statement from campaign headquarters in New York.

"Violence is no answer to the problems of this troubled country," he said. "Hatred and the bullet have no place in a society of free men and women.

He said he joined "all Americans in praying for the full recovery of Governor Wallace."

Senator Humphrey left his campaign late today for the hospital where Governor Wallace was taken after being shot.

Mr. Humphrey was campaigning at a private day-care center in Baltimore when Secret Service agents called him aside and told him that Mr. Wallace had been shot during a rally at Laurel, about 25 miles south of here.

"Oh, my God," a reporter heard Mr. Humphrey say. In a statement later, he said: "All I can say is it's a sad business. This is terrible that these things happen.

"It's getting so that you don't know what's going to happen in our country anymore in politics."

Mr. Humphrey said, "Four years ago, we had two tragic events, with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy. Those were fatal. And now we have the attack on Governor Wallace.

"I just hope and pray it is just a wound." Asked about the political consequences of the shooting, Mr. Humphrey said, "I'm more concerned now about the Governor and his family. I don't know what the political reaction is going to be.

"Out of sheer decency and a sense of civility amongst men that are in public life, and we know each other, the least I can do is to share my real concern and sorrow over this.

"No one likes these things to happen." Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, issued the following statement: "My heart and prayers go out to Governor Wallace and to the members of his grief-stricken family. Once more, democracy in America has been scarred by senseless and unforgivable violence. I am saddened beyond measure that tragedy has again stained and darkened the process we use to select our political leaders."

Two of Senator Kennedy's brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F.

Kennedy, Democrat of New York, were assassinated. After the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, Secret Service protection was extended to his widow and children. The children, Caroline and John Jr. still have that protection but it was terminated for Mrs. Kennedy after her marriage to Aristotle Onassis in 1968.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, who has withdrawn as an active candidate for the Democratic nomination, said, "I share the outrage of every citizen at this detestable attack on Governor Wallace.

"It is a tragedy for all of us that the peaceful operation of the democratic process has again been interrupted by an act of violence."

Mayor Lindsay, who is attending a conference of Mayors in San Jose, Calif., said: "The insane attack upon Governor Wallace is yet another terrible and inevitable example of the violence of our nation.

"From the needless neglect of our most pressing national needs we have reaped a harvest of division, despair and death. "We must bring this nation together in peace and we must do it now."

John Morsell, assistant executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said: "We have no use for Governor Wallace or his views, but we are unalterably opposed to violence.

"We express our regret and outrage that an attempted assassination has once again chilled the hearts of Americans and poisoned the political atmosphere.

"Black Americans have suffered from this kind of violence too many times to react with anything but horror and sorrow."

Agnew, in Tokyo, Shocked By the Shooting of Wallace

MAY 16 1972

TOKYO, May 15 (UPI)—Vice President Agnew said today he was shocked and saddened to learn of the shooting of Gov. George C. Wallace.

Mr. Agnew, concluding a visit to Tokyo during which he represented the United States at the reversion of Okinawa to Japanese rule, issued a statement early this morning. It said:

"I am shocked and saddened to learn of the wounding of Governor Wallace. Our concern goes out to the Governor's wife and children at this hour, as well as the families of others wounded in this brutal assault. We fervently hope for their early recovery."