

The Flaw in Wallace's

Washington

The security screen that failed Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama yesterday was one of the tightest and most protective in recent political history.

Nevertheless, it was constantly defeated by the exuberance and the handclapping, exulting, adoration of crowds that so marked Wallace's style as a campaigner.

Surrounded by an unswervingly loyal and seemingly tireless personal bodyguard of two and sometimes three Alabama state troopers — and in his 1968 and 1972 campaign travels also by a cadre of less formidable looking but more numerous United States Secret Service agents — Wallace seemed, nonetheless, to newsmen who traveled with him, in nonstop conflict with himself.

TROOPERS

He could show fear. But in combat with his anxiety over possible injury or assassination was an almost physical need to bathe himself in the throngs that he allowed to press in on him.

The ever-present state troopers, with their .38- and .357-magnum caliber revolvers bulging under jackets

that looked too small, surrounded him — frequently grasping the back of his trousers' belt to keep him from the edge of a stage.

It was a familiar Wallace situation at Laurel, Md., where he was shot yesterday, according to witnesses.

According to Lieutenant Lloyd Jemison, a burly, crewcut Alabama state trooper who has been one of Wallace's closest bodyguards since the early 1960's, "we always tried to keep the security on the tight side. But the Governor,

he's on the friendly side, you know. He'd spend 50 minutes talking behind the bullet-proof podium and then an hour out in front of it, shaking hands."

Interviewed in Montgomery, the Alabama state capitol, where he had been yesterday on temporary, detached duty from the Wallace party, Jemison recalled that the massive, 800-pound armor-plate podium had become a hallmark and a logistic burden in the Wallace entourage.

RUSHED

There were times in the early stages of Wallace's 1968 presidential campaign when the massive bullet-proof podium, which hid from an audience's view all of the short candidate except the top half of his head,

had to be rushed from city to city by automobile. The small Wallace campaign aircraft in those tightly financed days were of inadequate capacity to carry it, even if it were dismantled in sections.

Jemison, who has shared a decade of the state trooper bodyguard detail with Captain E. C. Dothard—one of those also shot yesterday — and Corporal Meady L. Hillier, said that Wallace had been fitted for a bulletproof



AP Wirephoto

As security men watched the crowd, Governor Wallace shed his jacket—moments later he was shot

Security

vest, "but he would never wear it — he didn't like it."

Wallace's well-known grip on the loyalty of policemen, generally, was observable in the suburban Maryland shopping center where he was shot yesterday afternoon.

One witness, Barry Bragg, manager of the Equitable Trust Co. branch at the sprawling, U-shaped Laurel Shopping Center, estimated that 50 to 60 Prince Georges county and Maryland state policemen had ringed the platform from which Wallace spoke.

In addition, an unknown number of other plainclothes policemen and Secret Service agents — Jemison said yesterday he "never did know how many Secret Service men we have" — stood near the candidate.

Jemison said that Wallace, who had often remarked privately that he was "the most threatened candidate in the country," had received "no threats at all lately—you know, not anything you could pin down. Our local people would get nervous before we're coming in sometimes," the stocky lieutenant said. "But there's been nothing we could check out, nothing."

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