

Concern for Democratic Process

State's Politicians 'Shocked'

By George Murphy

California's political leaders — of both major parties—reacted with universal shock and dismay to the news of the shooting of Alabama Governor George C. Wallace yesterday.

Many of them expressed concern for the future of the democratic process when, as one said, "a candidate has to risk his life to run for office."

Governor Ronald Reagan, who received the news as he was addressing a luncheon at Sacramento's Elks Tem-

ple, said Americans must individually decide that:

"Yes, it is possible for men and women of good will to differ . . . and live together and perhaps never come to agreement.

"But as God is in His Heaven," Reagan said, "do we have to hate each other to the point that people with less balance are stimulated to do deeds of this kind?"

SHOCK

California's senior U.S. Senator, Alan Cranston, said in Washington that "I am shocked and dismayed. I condemn all acts of violence. Violence is totally wrong,

totally senseless and totally out of place in a free, democratic society."

His junior colleague, Senator John V. Tunney, said:

"I am sickened by the shooting of Governor Wallace. A ghastly form of violence still stalks America. Our whole political system and democracy itself is threatened acutely when a candidate must risk his life . . . I pray that the people will remain quiet and resist any violence arising from this attempted assassination"

Mayor Joseph Alioto commented "it is disgraceful political differences cannot be aired in America without resort to violence. All of the nation prays for the complete recovery of Governor Wallace."

Los Angeles' Mayor Sam Yorty, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, was making a speech at Dinah's Shack in Palo Alto when he received the news.

"I'm shocked and disgusted," he said, "to think that candidates — in each election year, it seems — run into this same threat. I hope he (Wallace) will recover and can continue his campaign."

OUTRAGEOUS

Congressman William S. Mailiard (Rep-S.F.), said: "Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with a public figure, it's outrageous that people take this kind of means. It seems you can't conduct public business in a democracy without endangering your life."

His Democratic colleague, Congressman Phillip Burton, said: "I am sickened by the news that George Wallace has been shot during his campaign in Maryland.

"No one could be more diametrically opposed to the political candidacy of George Wallace than I am, but the vehicle of expressing that difference is the ballot, not the bullet.

"... a free society, a free nation, cannot tolerate such a senseless and brutal act or one so damaging to the very fabric of our democracy."

The Legislative Action Committee of the U. S. Conference of Mayors, meeting in San Jose, issued a joint statement representing the views of the mayors of 11 major cities, including John V. Lindsay of New York.

"The mayors are shocked at the insane attack upon Governor George Wallace. It is our hope that he will recover. This is yet another terrible and inevitable example of the violence of our nation.

"From the needless neglect of our most pressing 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."

INHIBITING

State Senate majority leader George Moscone (Dem-S.F.) said such assassination attempts tend to inhibit full discussion of controversial issues.

"Something like this al-

ways has an effect," he said. "People, however dedicated they are, they're always going to be thinking of that fanatic in the crowd."

State Senator Mervyn Dymally (Dem-L.A.), the only black in the California Senate, said:

"Like most Americans, I was deeply shocked and sickened on learning of the shooting of Governor Wallace.

"Certainly I disagreed with him on many issues, in fact, on most issues, but he was working within the system.

"The sickness in American politics which caused these shots to be fired at Governor Wallace is the same sickness which struck down Dr. Martin Luther King, and John and Robert Kennedy."

Dymally said the Wallace shooting "once again emphasizes the need for some sane gun control laws."