

JUN 21 197

Wallace Suspect Charge Reduced

UPPER MARLBORO (Md.) — (UPI) — The state of Maryland today dropped attempted murder charges against Arthur Bremer in the May 15 shooting of Alabama Gov. George Wallace and three other persons at a Laurel, Md., shopping center.

State's Attorney Arthur Marshall said he would prosecute Bremer instead on a charge of assault with intent to murder, which carries a maximum 15-year sentence, because he was convinced he could not get a longer term on the attempted murder charge.

Attempted murder under Maryland law could draw the death penalty, but Marshall said he could find no precedent in which such a penalty had actually been handed out.

Marshall also dropped gun law charges — which carry a penalty of 5 to 15 years — in the shooting of all the victims except Wallace. Under the remaining counts the maximum sentence Bremer could receive would be in excess of 65 years.

Bremer faces federal charges of interfering with the civil rights of a candidate.