

# Wallace Undecided on '76; Calls Health No Obstacle

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By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM  
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 — Gov. George C. Wallace said today that he had not decided whether he would run for the Presidency in 1976 but that he would be physically able to make the race should he decide to do so.

Discussing his physical condition on the National Broadcasting Company's program

"Meet the Press," the Alabama Governor said:

"I cannot walk and I am paralyzed from my waist down; but I go to my office, I can attend to the duties of the governorship of Alabama and as soon as a little more time passes I will be able to travel as extensively as I would like to travel. I will be physically able to be involved politically from now on.

"I am not able to jump over some of the fences at the airports where I land like I used to be able to do, but my condition is coming along all right, other than the fact that I am paralyzed, and I recognize the fact that there is not much chance that I will ever walk again."

The television program was broadcast from Miami, and the transcript was released here.

Asked whether he would run for President in 1976, Governor Wallace said:

"Well, I am still interested in 1976. Whether or not I will be a candidate, I will decide that question later. But my doctors tell me that I am going to be physically able to do whatever I would like to do in '76 and even before that. I am not a candidate at this time, but I am still interested to the point that I do not rule it out."

Governor Wallace said he believed that most of his supporters had voted for President

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Associated Press

Gov. George C. Wallace arriving for interview at Miami TV studio with his wife, Cornelia.

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Nixon instead of Senator George McGovern and that this had been a major factor in the President's victory.

Mr. Wallace won Democratic primaries in Florida, Michigan and Maryland, the last two the day after he had been shot and critically wounded while campaigning in a shopping center in Laurel, Md.

### Seeks New Leadership

The Governor said that had he not been injured he "would have considered running" as a third-party candidate this year but that "the chances are that I would not have."

For now, Mr. Wallace said, he was interested in changing the leadership of the Democratic party. He confirmed that his associates had opened an office here to work for the removal of Jean Westwood as chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Wallace said it was essential for the Democratic party to move toward the right if it were to regain the White House. "If the party doesn't do what it ought to do," he declared, "then I would be through as a national Democrat."

Mr. Wallace did not answer directly when he was asked if he could support Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat

of Massachusetts, for President in 1976, but he did say:

"It doesn't make any difference what individual you might mention if he doesn't think about those things that middle America is bothered about: high taxes, lawlessness on the streets, foreign-aid give-away, the trifling with health and safety of their children in the school matter, the defense posture of the country.

"If that individual does not take the position that the middle American took in this last election, then, regardless of who he happens to be, he will not be able to lead the Democratic party back to a victory, as far as the office of President is concerned," Mr. Wallace said.