



AP Wirephoto

GOVERNOR WALLER
He has some doubts

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Wallace's Candidacy

'Remote'

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A fellow southern governor questioned yesterday whether George C. Wallace is physically capable of an all-out 1976 presidential bid and said the partially paralyzed Alabama governor would have trouble getting as much southern support as he has had in the past.

"I personally feel right now that his candidacy is remote," said Governor William L. Waller (Dem-Miss.). He added that his view is based on his personal perception of Wallace when he (Waller) was the only governor at Wallace's third term inaugural last month.

In effect, the Mississippi governor discussed publicly what many top Democratic politicians have considered privately, whether Wallace would be capable of making the Democratic presidential bid he is reportedly planning in the wake of the 1972 assassination attempt that left him confined to a wheel-

chair.

However, Democratic party sources said they understand that planning for Wallace's fourth presidential bid is going forward.

When Wallace was wheeled into the conference hotel in midafternoon yesterday, he was surrounded by reporters asking about Waller's comments and his health.

"If my health was not all right, I wouldn't have run for governor of Alabama," Wallace said. "I'm as strong as anybody physically, except I can't walk."

Wallace said he hasn't decided yet on whether to run but that "yes, I am a viable candidate—if I become a candidate." When asked when he would decide, he said: "I'm going to take a little longer."

"I know the hierarchy of the Democratic party wished I would go away to Afghanistan or somewhere," Wallace said, adding that unless the Democratic party moves away from its position of 1972, "the people I represent are going to be very much involved" in 1976.

The nation's governors attended committee meetings yesterday on the opening day of their three-day mid-winter conference here.

Open sessions, at which they will meet with top administration officials headed by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller and congressional leaders, are scheduled for today and tomorrow.

Governor Calvin L. Rampton (Dem-Utah) is this year's national governors' conference chairman.

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