

Wallace to Be 'Involved' in '76 Drive

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 18—Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama inched a little closer to announcing his candidacy for President today, promising a cheering audience here that he intended to be "involved" in the 1976 campaign.

At the end of a 45-minute speech in which he criticized "elitists" who he said were "trying to grind down the middle class," the Governor declared:

"My intention at this time is that I am going to be involved in 1976. Of course, I reserve the right to change our mind. I will have a more formal announcement sometime at a later date."

Mr. Wallace erougt repeated applause from about 1,000 delegates to a convention of the National Federation of Independent Business with attacks on what he called "the exotic noise-makers of the New Left," the press, especially The New York Times, the "permissiveness of the courts" and "the welfare mess."

He also responded, a bit more specifically than in the past, to the increasing volume of criticism directed toward him by liberal elements of the Democratic party.

Reply to McIntyre

Replying to Senator Thomas H. McIntyre's assertion that Mr. Wallace offered only criticisms, not solutions, the Governor said of the New Hampshire Democrat, "It's pretty hard to find solutions to clean up the mess that he and his colleagues have created."

"I've got plenty of gas," he said, referring to a comment last week by Gov. Edwin W. Edwards of Louisiana, who said that Mr. Wallace had the support of about 20 per cent of the nation's voters but "runs out of gas" after that.



The New York Times/George Tames

Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama addressing National Federation of Independent Business in Washington.

The central issue of next year's Presidential campaign, the Governor said, will be "the survival of the middle class." He told the businessmen that their voices would be heard in 1976, even if he should be unable to run.

"our destiny is to be the strongest country economically and militarily on the face of the earth," Mr. Wallace said. "If I were President, I would demand some respect. You wouldn't look me in the eye and spit in it—and if you did, I'd spit back."