

Wallace, Starting European Tour, Meets With Wilson

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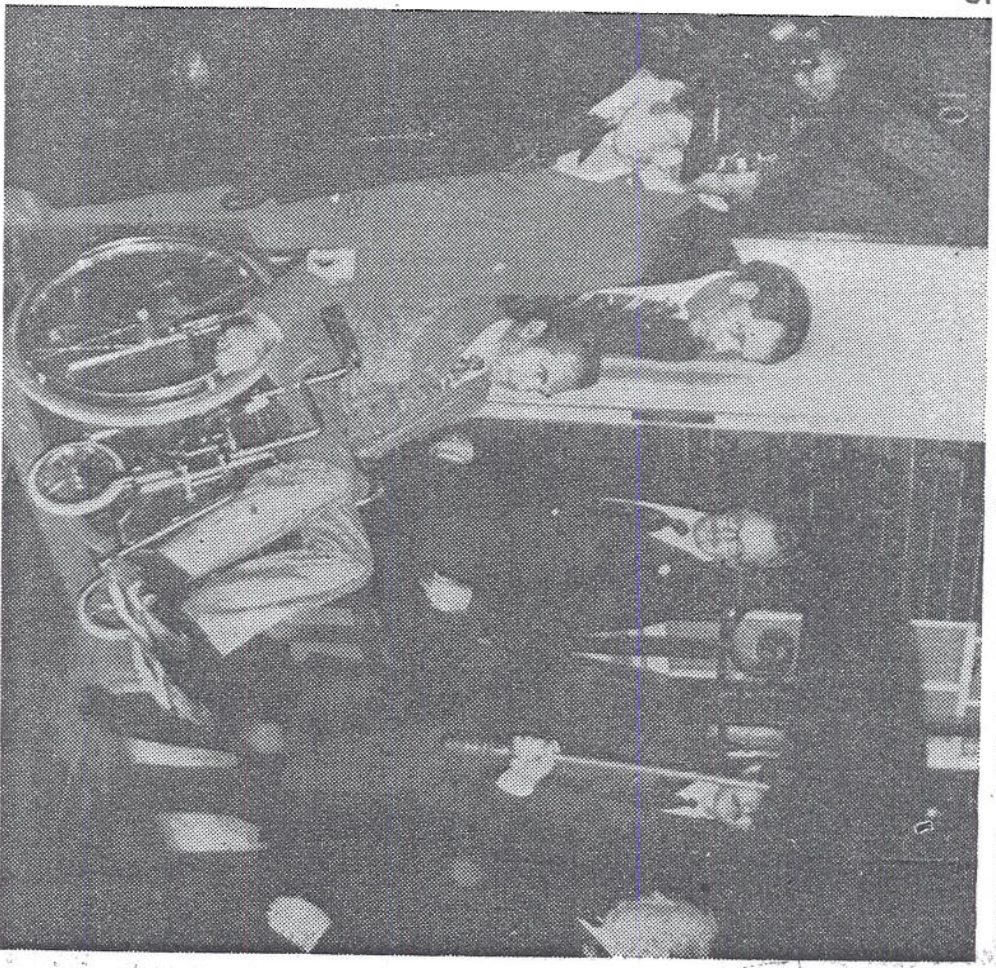
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LONDON, Oct. 13 — The American diplomatic community and the people who run the British Government do not know how to assess the Presidential prospects of Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama. But they were taking no chances today.

Arriving here on his first European tour, Governor Wallace received a correct and complete reception. It included a private briefing on diplomatic problems from United States Ambassador Elliot L. Richardson, a session with Prime Minister Harold Wilson, and plenty of TV exposure to a curious British public.

"I enjoyed it very much," Mr. Wallace said at the end of the day. "The people of the United States have always had close ties with Great Britain and always will. I feel very proud to be here."

In exchange for a full range of briefings, Mr. Wallace gave his listeners the full range of his views. He warned against Soviet "trickery," pledged himself to a strong Atlantic partnership and denounced govern-



United Press International
Gov. George C. Wallace leaves 10 Downing Street after visiting Prime Minister Wilson

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Gov. Wallace, in Europe, Sees Wilson

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ment paternalism and bureaucracy.

He also sounded in Britain much the same theme that Margaret Thatcher, the leader of Britain's Conservative party, had sounded in her recent tour of the United States: the need to relieve "pressure" on the middle class.

"The survival of the Western world, and especially the United States, depends upon the salvation of the middle class in our country," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation in an interview this evening, adding that the governments of the Western democracies—and he seemed to include Britain—had acted with "naïveté" toward the middle class and had squeezed them between "inflation" and "the tax structure."

He asserted, moreover, that President Ford and "every other prospective candidate" had come around to his point of view.

Using 'Campaign Funds'

Mr. Wallace's aides have said that he is close to announcing his fourth bid for the Presidency.

"The chances are that I will become involved more than I will not," he told the BBC when asked about his plans, and his aides conceded that the trip was being paid for largely out of "campaign funds."

Mr. Wallace described as "speculation" the notion that he had embarked on his tour to enhance his foreign affairs image as a candidate. His press secretary, Billy Joe Camp, said that the mission was one of "fact-finding and goodwill."

But there seemed little doubt that Mr. Wallace, whose reputation has rested largely on domestic issues, is invoking the political principle that one road to the White House lies through the capitals of the world. He will visit Brussels, Rome, Bonn, West Berlin, Paris and Edinburgh during the next two weeks.

'Outdated Us'

He also spoke more often than he usually does about foreign policy, salting his expressions of hope for stronger relations with Europe with sharp warnings about détente with the Soviet Union.

"That's a high-falutin' word that means getting together," he said. "If you want my opinion, the Russians have outdated us."

Mr. Wallace was not asked for his views on specific foreign policy questions. He faltered slightly when asked whether he "endorsed" United Nations Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan's reputation of a description of Uganda President Idi Amin as a "racist murderer."

The Governor turned to an aide for an explanation of the question, paused for a moment and said: "That's not what I came here to talk about. But I wouldn't dis-endorse what he said."

There was no immediate comment from Mr. Wilson's office on what he thought about his guest. Mr. Richardson, who is thought to have Presidential aspirations himself, was guarded, as saying only that he hoped Mr. Wallace found the embassy briefing "enlightening."

The members of the so-called Bow Group—an association of moderate conservatives, with whom Mr. Wallace had cook-

tails near the end of his day—said they found the Governor more interested in listening than in talking.

Apart from his references to the plight of the "middle classes," Mr. Wallace refused to discuss Britain's economic and social problems. The most he would say was that all industrialized nations should join to resist inflation.

On other subjects, the Governor seemed anxious to bury his image as a foe of black people, arguing that his stand against intergration had been part of his general defense against the demands of the Federal Government.

Asked about New York City's financial problems, he neither rejoiced in them nor advocated bold remedies. He said he had "misgivings" about New York's situation, and said he did not think "we can sit back and watch them default." But he also suggested that New York City officials could "bail themselves out" by cutting "profligate spending."

Mr. Wallace answered questions energetically at a news conference after the taping of the BBC interview this afternoon, and seemed outwardly no more tired than a businessman whose travel plans had gone awry.

"There is not a thing in the world wrong with me," he said. "Except that I am paralyzed." The victim of an assassin in 1972, he recalled that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had suffered from paralysis.

"I do not compare myself with Mr. Roosevelt," he said. "But he was in a wheelchair. He could not walk—neither can I. If he served four years, then at least I might be a candi-