Rally In Laurel

Candidate Seriously Wounded

LAUREL, Md. (AP) — Alabama Gov. George Wallace was shot and gravely wounded Monday afternoon just after finishing a presidential campaign speech. Late Monday night a surgeon said "we expect the governor to make a full recovery."

However, Dr. Joseph Schanno told a news conference that there is potential for some paralysis in Wallace's lower extremities due to a bullet near the spine but this is difficult to assess now.

He added: "There is some paralysis at this time."

In the pandemonium that followed the shooting at a Laurel shopping center, a young white man identified by police as Arthur Bremer, 21, of Milwaukee was arrested after being pummeled by Wallace backers. He was quickly brought under both federal and state charges.

At 11:30 p.m., the doctor said the governor was awakening in the recovery room after about

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GROUNDING AT SHOOTING SCENE—A woman is on her knees and a man is being helped to his feet at the Laurel, Md., shopping center Monday after Gov. George C. Wallace was shot while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination. Both are unidentified.

(AP Wirephoto)
five hours of surgery, and his vital signs were stable.

"If someone is difficult to assess the injury to the spinal cord," Schanno said, "we added that while one bullet was removed, a second remains "right on the spine," pending further observation.

Pressed for an answer on what impact the injuries might have on Wallace's ability to campaign, the doctor replied: "If worse comes to worst you couldn't say he'd have the same disability as Franklin D. Roosevelt."

Roosevelt suffered from paralysis of the legs caused by polio.

Dr. James G. Galbraith, head of the neurological department at the University of Alabama, said the governor is paralyzed in both lower extremities.

"The outlook cannot be predicted but it is not favorable... It would be unusual to get complete recovery under these circumstances."

Mrs. Wallace went on television about 1:30 p.m. to read a brief statement to express her confidence that her husband will survive.

She said: "I feel very optimistic about it. He didn't earn the title of the fighting little judge for nothing. I expect him to continue in the same vein."

"I'm very happy and I feel very good that he's alive, that he has a sound heart and a sound brain and all of his vital organs are solid. And I couldn't thank God any more than for that."

Medical concern was centered around possible spinal injuries and paralysis. But a Wallace spokesman at the hospital said: "The report from the operating room is that everything is progressing systematically. All vital signs are strong."

The department filed charges against Bremer, accusing him of assault on a federal officer and violating the 1968 Civil Rights Act by assaulting a candidate for an elective office. The assault on a federal officer charge stems from the wounding of a Secret Service agent, one of three persons shot with Wallace.

Late Monday night, Maryland state attorney Arthur A. Marshall announced Bremer has been charged on four counts of assault, with intent to murder in the shootings.

Marshall spoke to newsmen at Prince George's County Hospital where Bremer was taken for treatment of scalp lacerations and was given a medical examination, Marshall said.

"The shooting came shortly before 4 p.m." as Wallace was campaigning for votes in Tuesday's Democratic presidential primary.

The governor had just finished a speech at the shopping complex 15 miles from Washington. He stepped from behind the podium on the rostrum to exchange handshakes with some of the 1,000 gathered to hear him.

A man wearing Wallace buttons pushed through the crowd, asking the governor to shake hands. When he got near enough, the man stuck a gun in Wallace's stomach and fired. Wallace fell backward, hit four times.

Pandemonium broke out. People started screaming and several grabbed at the assailant. "He was roughed up pretty bad," police said later.

In Washington, U.S. Attorney George Reall said the Secret Service had recovered a .38-caliber revolver that was purchased by Bremer Jan. 13.

Bremer could get the death penalty if the Secret Service agent dies and he is convicted. The maximum penalty under the Civil Rights Act is life imprisonment.

Wallace received a blood transfusion and went into surgery.

An hour and a half later Wallace's wife Cornelia emerged from the operating room and said, "Wallace is out of the danger zone."

"His vitals are not quite stable yet but he's making good progress. He was in surgery six and a half hours."

"He's under a lot of pressure but he's responding very well to treatment."

"We're very, very, very happy."

"He's alive."

"He's going to live."

"He's going to be fine."
Wallace's press secretary, said: "It's entirely too early for any question or answer in that regard."

He said the bleeding and "everything else is under control. Everything from the operating room is very encouraging at this time ... His blood pressure is 110, which is considered good."

Camp said the governor was conscious and talking when he went into the operating room and that Mrs. Wallace was holding up "very strongly."

Harry Stine, public relations director for the shopping center, said the governor's wife had been inside the bank.

"Mrs. Wallace was coming back upstairs from inside the bank. She was outside the bank when it happened."

"She said something like 'Oh my God!' as she ran and fell on top of him, throwing herself on him," Stine said.

Mrs. Wallace kept crying "Honey, honey" and had to be pulled from her wounded husband, Stine said.

In addition to Wallace and the Secret Service agent, an Alabama state trooper and a woman campaign worker were injured in the shooting.

Tom Burke, public affairs officer at the hospital said: "There is some indication of bleeding internally ... There was some indication of paralysis."

Burke said Wallace was talking to his wife as he was wheeled into surgery.

President Nixon telephoned Mrs. Wallace at the hospital to offer his prayers and hope for the governor's recovery. He issued a statement deploring the "senseless and tragic incident."

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, one of Wallace's two major opponents in Tuesday's primaries in Maryland and Michigan, spent an hour with Wallace's wife at the hospital.

Both Humphrey and Sen. George S. McGovern, campaigning in Michigan, cancelled all further campaign appearances.

The Secret Service agent who was shot was identified as Nicholas Zorvas, a spokesman at Leland Memorial Hospital said he had been shot through the neck. After an hour of surgery his condition was described as satisfactory.

The wounded trooper was identified as Capt. E. C. Dothard, and the woman as Dora Thompson. Doctors said Dothard and Miss Thompson were "not in too bad shape."

Mrs. George Mangum of Selma, Ala., an official of Women for Wallace, said she was standing five feet from the governor when the shooting began.