

Doctors Say Connally Recovering

DALLAS (UPI) — Gov. John Connally of Texas, out of danger Saturday and recovering from the bullet of an assassin, may owe his life to the slow workings of a bolt-action Mauser military rifle.

Bill Sizemore, the governor's administrative assistant, at 4:53 a.m. PST said "I have seen the governor and talked with the doctor. Gov. Connally spent a satisfactory night. He slept well and all vital signs are good. Doctors are pleased with his progress."

Connally, who was President Kennedy's secretary of the Navy until he resigned in 1961 to run successfully for the governorship of Texas, still did not know Saturday that the sniper who wounded him killed the President.

Physicians at Parkland Memorial Hospital said they did not plan to tell Connally immediately.

When the shots were fired, the governor was sitting in a jump seat of the big presidential limousine, opposite the President. Connally's wife Nellie was sitting on the other jump seat, across from Mrs. Kennedy.

President Shot First
The President was shot first. A bullet smashed through his head. Sheriff's deputies who lined the route said there was a pause of several seconds before the two quick shots followed the first.

In that short delay, the governor awoke in bewilderment or horror toward the slumping President.

That movement saved his life.

"If he had not turned," said Dr. Thomas Sizemore, chief of surgeons of the Southwest Medical Center, "the bullet would have gone through the middle of his back and probably would have punctured his heart."

Bullet Shatters Lung

As it was, the bullet tore downward from the collarbone through the right side of Connally's chest. It fragmented, smashing three ribs and puncturing his lung, then shattered his right wrist and lodged in his left leg just above the knee.

A team of three surgeons, including Sizemore who ruled 220 miles from Houston by Air Force jet, removed one of the 49-year-old governor's ribs and repaired the lung.

At the end of a four-hour operation, doctors said he was a "doing fine." They did not think there would be any permanent damage.

Dr. Robert Shaw said it appeared Connally would "recover without significant disability" and Dr. Sizemore said, "he's going to be all right."

California Will Join Observance

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI)—Acting Gov. Glenn M. Anderson Saturday proclaimed Monday an official day of mourning in California and closed all state and county offices and schools.

The closing of county offices, because of legal technicalities, was left up to local government.

Anderson also called upon "all business and all citizens to join in the observance of this sad occasion."

The lieutenant governor, Suburban for Gov. Edmund G. Brown who was in Washington, issued the proclamation at a press conference. The proclamation came after hours of discussion through law books to determine its ramifications on local government and schools.

Because of the proclamation, all schools, colleges and universities were automatically closed for Monday, a deputy attorney general said. However, the schools still must account for the average daily attendance amounts—either later or through amounts already reserved—in order to collect regular state support funds.

Although counties will have to close offices on their own, the deputy said, many local governmental employees are under union contracts that forbid them to work when state offices are not open.

A governor's office spokesman said the state proclamation was a necessary first step before many counties could close offices.

Anderson urged "all Californians to devote at least part of this day of mourning to prayer for the president's soul, for President Johnson, and for our nation's future."

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Deed Bore Out Fears Of Agents

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The assassination of President Kennedy by a skilled sniper using a high-powered rifle with a telescopic sight bore out the fears of U. S. Secret Service agents that it was virtually impossible to guard him completely against just what happened Friday on the streets of Dallas, Tex.

In other words, the agents cannot guard against assassins out of sight and out of reach.

As U. S. Baughman, former chief of the Secret Service wrote after he left his official post: "A rifle with a telescopic sight slipped unobtrusively out of any of a thousand windows along the route with plenty of time to aim carefully, and we would have been helpless to protect our charge."

For a president to tour the heart of any city with optimum safety would require enclosing him in heavy, bullet-proof glass or plastic, armor the sides and bottom of his car with heavy steel plate and banning the occupancy of any building along the procession route.

Such precautions plainly are impracticable, but some extensive tightening up can be expected as a result of the Kennedy assassination.

There is no doubt that an agent would have sacrificed his life for John Fitzgerald Kennedy if he had had a chance.

There are two absolute rules for motorcade protection. The agent running or riding at the President's side or in a must never leave that position unless relieved. And the other is to turn out the manpower in all Secret Service cars the moment trouble arises and literally get Secret Service bodies around the President.

But a long-range rifle fired from a window along a parade route sends its deadly lead faster than any human can move.

Nixon Asks Reduction Of Hatred

NEW YORK (UPI) — Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon said Saturday the greatest tribute we can pay to President Kennedy is to try to reduce the forces of hatred.

Nixon made the statement to newsmen outside his apartment. He declined to answer any questions.

"President Kennedy yesterday wrote the last and greatest chapter of his 'Profiles in Courage,'" Nixon said. "People throughout the world are trying to find words adequate to express their sorrow over his death and sympathy to his family."

"The greatest tribute we can pay to his memory is in our lives to do everything we can to reduce the forces of hatred which drive men to such terrible deeds."

Candles Lit In Berlin

BERLIN (UPI) — Berliners in both sides of this divided city Saturday night answered West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt's call for mourning and lighted candles in their windows to honor the memory of President Kennedy.

The flickering lights could be seen across the Communist wall as well as throughout the free Western half of the city.

It was another public demonstration of mourning for the American President who only five months ago toured the Communist wall and described a clearing by declaring "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner").

More than 60,000 Berliners, their heads downcast and many weeping, held a second torchlight parade Saturday night to mourn the President. Under a banner reading "We lost a friend," they gathered at city hall to hear Brandt praise Kennedy.

The mayor said the President won the trust and affection of millions throughout the world by a policy completely aimed at maintaining a just peace and avoiding an atomic war.

Every half hour U. S. Army garrison cannons boomed in death march cadence. Everywhere people wept without shame.

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