

(Today's In the News column is devoted to comments on the attempted assassination of President Reagan.)

Jimmy Carter, the former president, issued a statement at Atlanta saying that he and Mrs. Carter "join the entire nation in prayer for the well-being of all those wounded and for their families."

Gerald R. Ford, the former president, himself a target of two assassination attempts while in office, expressed "grave concerns for the president" and said he would continue to "monitor the situation."

Richard M. Nixon, the former president, said at New York that he and his wife Pat were "praying" for President Reagan's recovery from a gunshot wound.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem., Mass.), recalling the assassinations of two of his brothers, urged at Washington that lawmakers "commit ourselves to do everything we can" to rid society of violence and hate.

Walter F. Mondale, the former vice president, said that he and his wife Joan "share all America's outrage at the terrible violence we have witnessed today."

John N. Snyder, chief lobbyist for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, describing Mr. Reagan as "the most pro-gun president in my lifetime," said his group "deplored" the assassination attempt, but pointed out that the incident occurred "in the jurisdiction (Washington, D.C.) which has the most restrictive handgun control laws in the United States."

Representative Peter W. Rodino (Dem., N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said that because of the shooting of President Reagan he would push for a ban on "Saturday Night Specials" and require more detailed reporting of gun sales, adding, "It is shocking that the violence that terrorizes our city daily has made one of its victims our president, in broad daylight in the streets of our capital."

Bob Hope, the comedian and long-time friend of President Reagan, said at Los Angeles he was "as shocked as anybody else to hear the news" of the attempt on Mr. Reagan's life, recalling that during the presidential campaign Mr. Reagan told him he almost always wore a bulletproof jacket.

John B. Anderson, the independent candidate for president last year, said at San Francisco that the attack on President Reagan was "cruel and violent," adding, "To know that he (Mr. Reagan) has been assaulted in this senseless manner has got to literally make your blood run cold."

John B. Connally, the former Texas governor who was wounded in the same shooting in which President John F. Kennedy was killed at Dallas November 22, 1963, said at Houston that he was shocked and outraged at the attempt on President Reagan's life.

Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate and one of the leading critics of President Reagan's policies, said at Washington, "The shooting was a horrid criminal act" and shows the need for strict handgun control laws.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada sent a message to the White House from Toronto denouncing the "insane assault" on President Reagan and saying, "My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. and Mrs. Reagan."

Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations, expressed "shock and dismay," condemning as an "act of terrorism" the assassination attempt on President Reagan.

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt sent a message to the White House wishing President Reagan a speedy recovery so that you may resume the leadership of your great and free country."

Menachem Begin, the Israeli prime minister, said at Tel Aviv that he was "shocked and astonished" over the wounding of President Reagan and he wished for "a speedy recovery for the leader of the free world."

Partly cloudy and breezy, with a high in the low 80s and a low in the low 50s. (Weather Map on Page 2A.)

Reagan Shot, Seriously Wounded At Washington; Doctors Report Outlook 'Excellent' After Surgery



As gunfire erupts, Secret Service agents hurriedly push the president into his car.

'In Control,' Haig Asserts; Bush Returns

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., who last week lost out to Vice President George Bush for command of "crisis management" when the president is unavailable, declared himself "in control" Monday following the shooting of President Reagan.

But Bush returned to the White House late Monday and took control of the government just as the president emerged from surgery in "stable" condition.

Speaking to reporters at the White House shortly after the assassination attempt, Haig was asked if crisis management would be put into effect when Bush returned from Texas, where the vice president had been forced to cancel an address to the state legislature and fly back.

Haig, who served as former President Richard M. Nixon's chief of staff in the final days of his presidency, answered, "The crisis management is in effect."

"Who is making the decisions?" a reporter asked.

Wrong on Order

Haig replied, "Constitutionally, gentlemen, you have the president, the vice president, and the secretary of State in that order. And should the president decide he wants to transfer the helm to the vice president, he will do so. He has not done that."

"As of now, I am in control here in the White House, pending return of the vice president and in close touch with him. If something came up, I would check with him, of course."

However, the current statute on presidential succession, enacted July 18, 1947, calls for the succession as the president, vice president, the speaker of the House of Representatives (Democrat Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts) and the president pro tempore of the Senate (Republican Strom Thurmond of North Carolina).

The cabinet follows, beginning with the secretary of State. From 1792 to 1886, the succession after the vice president was the Senate president pro tempore, then the speaker, followed by a new election. From 1886 to 1947, it was changed to include the secretary of State and on through the cabinet.

Bush went to the White House shortly after his arrival from Fort Worth. On the flight back, House Majority Leader James C. Wright of Texas said Bush told him he found it "utterly incomprehensible that anybody could work up sufficient malice against President Reagan to want him dead."

"I say he looks like he's in total control of himself," Texas



Agents (upper left) subdue suspect at scene of shooting.

Family Says Suspect Had History of Psychiatric Care

John Warnock Hinckley Jr., 25, the man accused of trying to assassinate President Reagan, has a history of psychiatric care, his family confirmed Monday night. Acquaintances, meanwhile, described Hinckley as quiet and friendly.

He was arrested last fall for trying to board an airliner with firearms at Nashville, Tenn., when former President Jimmy Carter was in town. Hinckley, the son of conserva-

Secret Service spokesman John Warner said the service had no previous knowledge of Hinckley before Monday's shooting. Jim Robinson, an attorney for John Warnock Hinckley Sr., Hinckley's father, issued a statement saying the younger Hinckley "had been under psychiatric care. However, the evaluations

Press Secretary 'Fighting for Life'; 2 Officers Hurt

WASHINGTON — President Reagan was shot and seriously wounded in an assassination attempt Monday at Washington and later underwent surgery to remove a bullet from his left lung "several inches" from his heart. Physicians said his condition was stable, his life was never in danger and the outlook was "excellent."

The would-be assassin also shot Press Secretary James Brady, a Secret Service agent and a Washington police officer. Brady was reported to be in "extremely critical" condition after suffering a bullet wound in the head.

Authorities identified the gunman who fired six shots at the president and his party as John Warnock Hinckley Jr., 25, of Evergreen, Col. He was wrestled to the ground and arrested.

Near midnight, Hinckley was led into a federal courtroom and formally charged with attempting to assassinate the president and assaulting a Secret Service officer. He also faces a charge of assault with intent to kill a policeman.

Roger Young, an FBI spokesman at Washington, said there had been "no problem" with the suspect's coherence when questioned by authorities. Young refused to elaborate on a possible motive for the shooting. The assailant appeared to have acted alone, according to the Secret Service.

Mr. Reagan, 70, had just left the Hilton Hotel in downtown Washington and was walking to his car when six shots rang out. His smile froze in horror. A Secret Service agent pushed him into the presidential limousine, which sped off, leaving Brady and the two officers sprawled on the sidewalk in the light rain.

Brady, 40, was struck above the right eye. Doctors performed a skull operation called a craniotomy and discovered a trauma so severe as to probably cause permanent brain damage should the press secretary survive.

The wounded Secret Service agent was identified as Timothy J. McCarthy, 32, who was shot in the back, with a bullet also lodging in his lung.

The policeman was identified as Thomas K. Delahanty, 45, a 17-year veteran who, according to Washington Mayor Marion Barry, was the first to tackle the assailant and was shot in the neck. Both officers were in serious condition.

Reagan Jokes at Hospital

Although he was bleeding, Mr. Reagan walked into George Washington University Hospital on his own. First Lady Nancy Reagan rushed to the hospital from the White House, where Mr. Reagan joked with her, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

Lyn Nofziger, Mr. Reagan's chief political aide, quoted the president as telling Senator Paul Laxalt (Rep., Nev.), Mr. Reagan's former campaign manager: "Don't worry about me, I'll make it." When the president, saw his top White House aides at the hospital, he reportedly asked: "Who's minding the store?"

The operating room was said to be the scene of a bit of the partisan humor favored by the chief executive. Presidential aide Lyn Nofziger said that Mr. Reagan, eyeing the surgeons, said, "Please tell me you're Republicans."

At this point, Mr. Reagan had apparently not been told of the grave wounds to the three men who went down in the spray of bullets aimed at him.

Two and a half hours after emerging from surgery, Reagan joked with doctors in the recovery room, according to a White House statement.

"Despite the tubes in his mouth, he (Mr. Reagan) gave them a note that said 'All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia,'" the statement said.

Dr. Dennis S. O'Leary, head of internal medicine at George Washington University Hospital, said the president's prognosis was "excellent."

Dr. O'Leary described Reagan as "clear of head" and said he "should be able to make decisions by tomorrow, certainly."

"We do not believe there is any permanent injury," he added.

Hours before Hinckley's arraignment, the courthouse was cleared, and security men stood guard outside as the suspect came and went. He was in FBI custody, held without bail, but



JAMES BRADY Wounded by Gunman



JOHN W. HINCKLEY JR. In January 1981 Photo

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