

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Mostly sunny, mild today; fair tonight. Chance of showers tomorrow. Temperature range: today 48-72; yesterday 56-65. Details on page C9.

VOL. CXXX. No. 44,904

Copyright © 1981 The New York Times

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1981

10 cents beyond 50-mile zone from New York City. Higher in air delivery states.

25 CENTS

REAGAN WOUNDED IN CHEST BY GUNMAN; OUTLOOK 'GOOD' AFTER 2-HOUR SURGERY; AIDE AND 2 GUARDS SHOT; SUSPECT HELD

Bush Flies Back From Texas Set to Take Charge in Crisis

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 30 — Vice President Bush, cutting short a trip to Texas, returned to the White House this evening to take charge of the crisis in the Government and to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency if President Reagan's injuries prevented him from serving in the office.

It was unclear tonight how long Mr. Bush would remain in charge of Government functions, however. At George Washington University Hospital, the dean of clinical affairs said that President Reagan was "alert" and that he "should be able to make decisions by tomorrow." But he said Mr. Reagan might have to remain in the hospital for two weeks.

"I can reassure this nation and a watching world that the American Government is functioning fully and effectively," Mr. Bush said this evening after presiding over a half-hour Cabinet meeting in the White House situation room, where participants also heard the televised news conference reporting on Mr. Reagan's condition.

'Officers Fulfilling Obligations'

"We've had full and complete communications throughout the day, and the officers of the Federal Government have been fulfilling their obligations with skill and with care," Mr. Bush continued. He added that "all our prayers" and "all our hope" were extended for the recovery of the two wounded law enforcement men and for James S. Brady, the White House press secretary.

White House spokesmen said this evening that no steps had been taken to install Mr. Bush as Acting President under the terms of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for succession in case of Presidential disability.

Mr. Bush was scheduled to fill in for the President tomorrow, however, at a series of previously scheduled functions, including a Cabinet meeting, a session with Congressional leaders, and a lunch with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Andreas A. M. van Agt. He prepared to

Americans were saddened and outraged by news of the shooting of the President. In the business community, activity came to a standstill; stock trading was halted. Pages A5 and D1.

spend the night at his own official residence in northwest Washington, a few miles from the White House.

Contradictory Statements

There were contradictory statements in the afternoon and evening about who was in charge of the Government.

Shortly after 4 P.M., Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr., who rushed to the White House minutes after the attack, announced he was in control pending the return of the Vice President to Washington. Mr. Haig also said he was in charge because the newly created system of "crisis management" was in effect, and he suggested that it was his role to serve as crisis-management coordinator until the

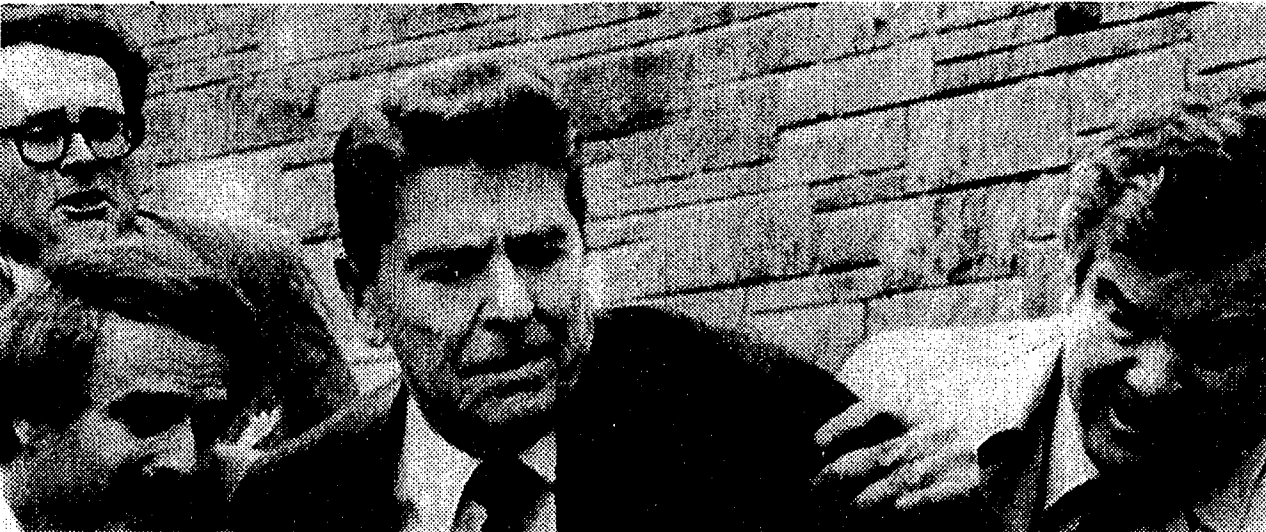
Continued on Page A5, Column 2



President Reagan leaving the Washington Hilton. At right is James S. Brady. As Mr. Reagan waved to the crowd...



... the gunman fired, hitting the President below his left arm. In photo made over roof of Presidential car...



... Secret Service agents are seen pushing Mr. Reagan into the vehicle, which immediately sped to a hospital.



Circle at right shows gun held by suspect. Legs of Timothy J. McCarthy, the wounded agent, are visible at center.



James S. Brady lies on sidewalk. The pistol is believed to belong to a security agent, who put it down while helping.

LEFT LUNG IS PIERCED

Coloradan, 25, Arrested — Brady, Press Chief, Is Critically Injured

By HOWELL RAINES
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 31 — President Reagan was shot in the chest yesterday by a gunman, apparently acting alone, as Mr. Reagan walked to his limousine after addressing a labor meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The White House press secretary and two law-enforcement officers were also wounded by a burst of shots.

The President was reported in "good" and "stable" condition last night at George Washington University Hospital

Statements in capital, pages A5 and A7.

after undergoing two hours of surgery. "The prognosis is excellent," said Dr. Dennis S. O'Leary, dean of clinical affairs at the university. "He is alert and should be able to make decisions by tomorrow."

The hospital spokesman said surgeons removed a .22-caliber bullet that struck Mr. Reagan's seventh rib, penetrating the left lung three inches and collapsing it.

A rapid series of five or six shots rang out about 2:30 P.M. as Mr. Reagan left the hotel. A look of stunned disbelief swept across the President's face when the shots were fired just after he raised his left arm to wave to the crowd. Nearby, his press secretary, James S. Brady, fell to the sidewalk, critically wounded.

Eyewitnesses said six shots were fired at the Presidential entourage from a distance of about 10 feet. The assailant had positioned himself among the television camera crews and reporters assembled outside a hotel exit.

The authorities arrested a 25-year-old Colorado man, John W. Hinckley Jr., at the scene of the attack. He was booked on Federal charges of attempting to assassinate the President and assault on a Federal officer, and early this morning he was ordered held without bail by Federal Magistrate Arthur L. Burnett.

According to police records, Mr. Hinckley was arrested in Nashville last fall on weapons charges on a night when President Carter was speaking there.

Scene of Turmoil

Within minutes after the attack yesterday afternoon, Americans were witnessing for the second time in a generation television pictures of a chief executive being struck by gunfire during what appeared to be a routine public appearance. For the second time in less than 20 years, too, they watched as the nation's leaders scrambled to meet one of the sternest tests of the democratic system.

Mr. Reagan, apparently at first unaware that he had been wounded, was shoved forcefully by a Secret Service agent into the Presidential limousine,

Continued on Page A3, Column 3

A Bullet Is Removed From Reagan's Lung In Emergency Surgery

By ROBERT REINHOLD
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 30 — President Reagan was treated for a partly collapsed lung today, but the bullet that entered his left side and lodged in the tissue of his left lung did not do much further damage, according to doctors who operated on him. Surgeons removed a .22-caliber bullet from the President's lower left lung.

Neither Mr. Reagan's heart nor such vital blood vessels as the aorta were affected, Dr. Dennis S. O'Leary, dean for clinical affairs at George Washington University, said at a briefing this evening. "The bullet was never close to any vital structure," he said. He called Mr. Reagan's prognosis "excellent."

Emergency surgical procedures, which took about two hours, found no bleeding or damage in the abdominal area. Mr. Reagan received five units, or two and a half quarts, of blood in a transfusion before surgery. His vital signs were stable throughout his ordeal.

The adult body contains five to six quarts of blood. The hazard of blood loss relates to how rapidly the blood is lost and whether the volume of the blood sup-

Continued on Page A7, Column 1

Suspect Was Arrested Last Year In Nashville on Weapons Charge

By PHILIP TAUBMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 31 — The 25-year-old son of a Denver oil executive was overpowered by police officers and Secret Service agents yesterday at the scene of an attack on President Reagan. He was charged with the attempted assassination of the President and the shooting of three other persons.

The suspect was identified as John W. Hinckley Jr., who was said to have been in psychiatric care recently. He was arrested in Nashville last Oct. 9 for possession of concealed weapons, according to Nashville police records, and was released after paying a fine of \$62.50. President Carter had arrived in Nashville a few hours earlier that night to speak at Opry Land.

Yesterday, in the tumult that followed the firing of a series of shots at Mr. Reagan's party, Mr. Hinckley was grabbed and pushed against a wall outside the Washington Hilton Hotel. Secret Service agents said that a Harrington Richards .22-caliber pistol was recovered from him, and he was quickly taken away in a District of Columbia police car.

Mr. Hinckley, described as a blue-eyed, sandy-haired man about 5 feet 10 inches tall, was turned over by the police to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was arraigned early this morning in Federal District Court here.

He was ordered held without bail by Federal Magistrate Arthur L. Burnett on a charge that he "knowingly and intentionally" attempted to kill President Reagan and assaulted a Secret Service

Continued on Page A2, Column 4

Other News

Polish Strike Suspended

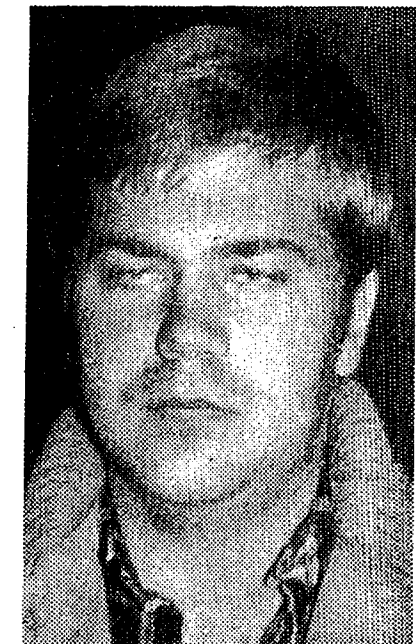
A nationwide strike threatened for today was averted after leaders of Solidarity reached a tentative settlement with the Polish Government. Page A9.

Indonesians Storm Hijacked Jet

Four of five hijackers were slain and 55 hostages freed when commandos in Bangkok retook an Indonesian airliner held since Saturday. Page A8.

Around Nation	.....A16	Music	.....C5-9
Books	.....C20	Notes on People	.....B6
Bridge	.....C20	Obituaries	.....D22
Business Day	.....D1-21	Op-Ed	.....A19
Chess	.....C20	Science Times	.....C1-4
Crossword	.....C20	Shipping	.....D13
Dance	.....C9	Sports	.....B18-22
Editorials	.....A18	Style	.....B16
Education	.....C1, C4	Theaters	.....C5-9
Going Out Guide	.....C7	TV / Radio	.....C9
Letters	.....A18	U.N. Event	.....A12
Movies	.....C5-9	Weather	.....C9

News Summary and Index, Page B1
Classified AdsC3-24 | Auto ExchangeB20



John W. Hinckley Jr. in photo made Jan. 21 for his driver's license.

Witnesses to Shooting Recall Suspect Acting 'Fidgety' and 'Hostile'

By RICHARD D. LYONS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 30 — "I spotted him walking rapidly up and down outside the back door of the hotel," John M. Dodson said. "He looked fidgety — agitated — a little strange, and I said to myself 'What if he takes a shot at the President?'"

Mr. Dodson, a computer specialist, was not the only person to take note of the behavior of the blond young man outside the Washington Hilton where President Reagan was making a speech. Walter C. Rogers, a reporter for Associated Press Radio, said the young man had been hostile to the group of reporters he had penetrated. And another witness, Samuel Lafta, an iron worker from Warren, Mich., said that a police lieutenant had stared at the young man several times.

But, nothing was done until the shots that wounded the President, his press secretary and two guards rang out. Then, the young man was overwhelmed by police officers and Secret Service agents.

Mr. Dodson, who works for the Pinkerton Detective Agency was standing on the seventh floor of the Universal North

Continued on Page A4, Column 3

FOR HOME DELIVERY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, call toll-free 800-521-2200. In New Jersey, 800-527-0200. In Boston, call (617) 787-3010. In Washington, D.C. (301) 654-2771—ADVT.

ALBERT G. SIMS
We miss you already. Elva and Patzy—Advt.