

Weather

Today—Mostly sunny and pleasant, high 75-80, low tonight 48-54. Chance of rain is near zero today, 30 percent tonight. Wednesday—Showers and mild, high 72-76. Yesterday—3 p.m. AQL: 25; temp. range: 67-60. Details on Page B2.

The Washington Post

FINAL

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Reagan Wounded by Assailant's Bullet; Prognosis Is 'Excellent'; 3 Others Shot

By David S. Broder
Washington Post Staff Writer

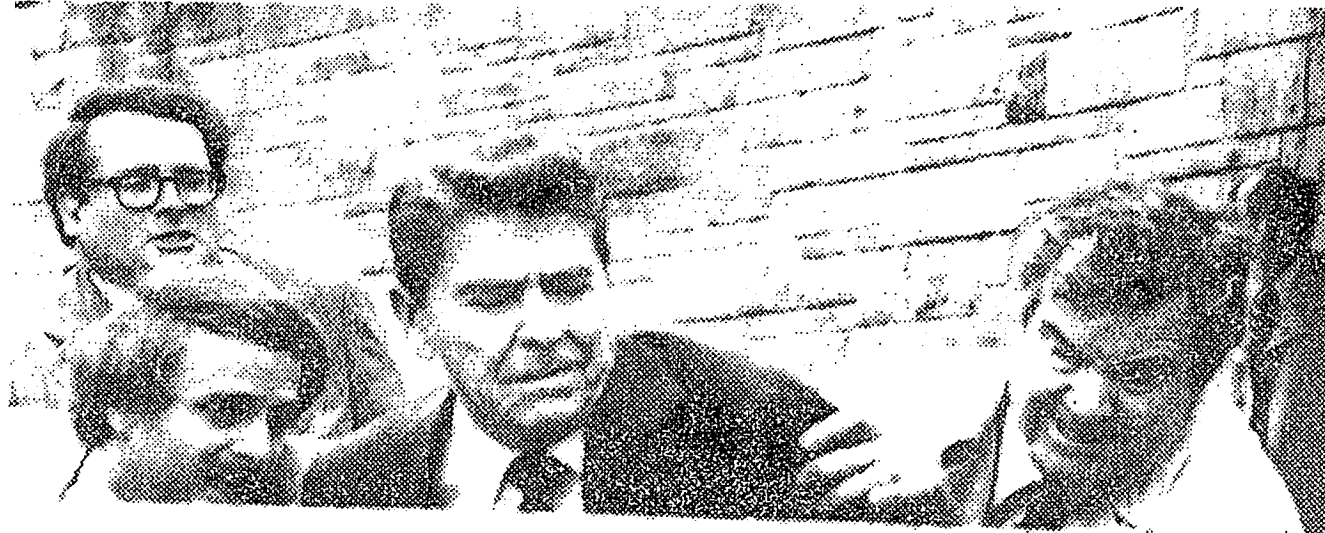
President Reagan survived an assassination attempt yesterday when a revolver-wielding gunman waiting among reporters and photographers on the sidewalk outside the Washington Hilton hotel fired a bullet into his chest.

The same assailant critically wounded White House press secretary James S. Brady and felled a Secret Service man and a Washington policeman.

In the 70th day of his presidency, Reagan underwent three hours of surgery at George Washington University Hospital to remove the bullet that entered under his left armpit, struck his seventh rib and burrowed three inches into his left lung.

On his way into surgery, the president gamely reassured friends: "Don't worry about me. I'll make it."

At 7:25 p.m., five hours after the shooting, the president was out of surgery and in stable condition. Dr. Dennis O'Leary told reporters the 70-year-old chief executive's "prognosis is excellent," adding that "at no time was he in serious danger." O'Leary said the president was "clear of head and should be able to make decisions by tomorrow." But he said Reagan may be in the hospital for two weeks and would not be "fully recovered" for perhaps three months.

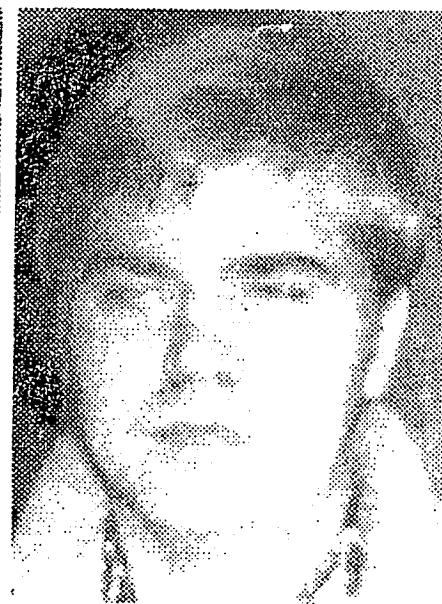


Secret Service agents shove President Reagan into his limousine after he was shot. At right, John W. Hinckley Jr., of Evergreen, Colo., was held in shooting.

The president's good spirits survived the traumatic day. At 8:50 p.m., according to White House aide Lyn Nofziger, with drainage tubes still in his throat, Reagan wrote a note to his doctors saying: "All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia." The line is a classic uttered by W.C. Fields when facing a lynching in "My Little Chickadee."

Vice President Bush, at a White House briefing held after his rushed return to the city, said he was encouraged by the medical reports and anticipates a "complete recovery" by the president.

"I can reassure this nation and a watching world that this government is functioning fully and effectively," Bush said.



Associated Press Photos

Police subdued the suspected assailant on the scene. He was later identified as John Warnock Hinckley Jr., the 25-year-old son of a wealthy Evergreen, Colo., oil executive.

About midnight, Hinckley was formally charged in U.S. District Court here with the attempted assassination of a president and assault on a federal employee, the Secret Ser-

vice agent. The suspect was being held without bond at an undisclosed location, and U.S. Magistrate Arthur L. Burnett, at the government's request, ordered that Hinckley undergo a psychiatric examination today and return for a preliminary hearing Thursday.

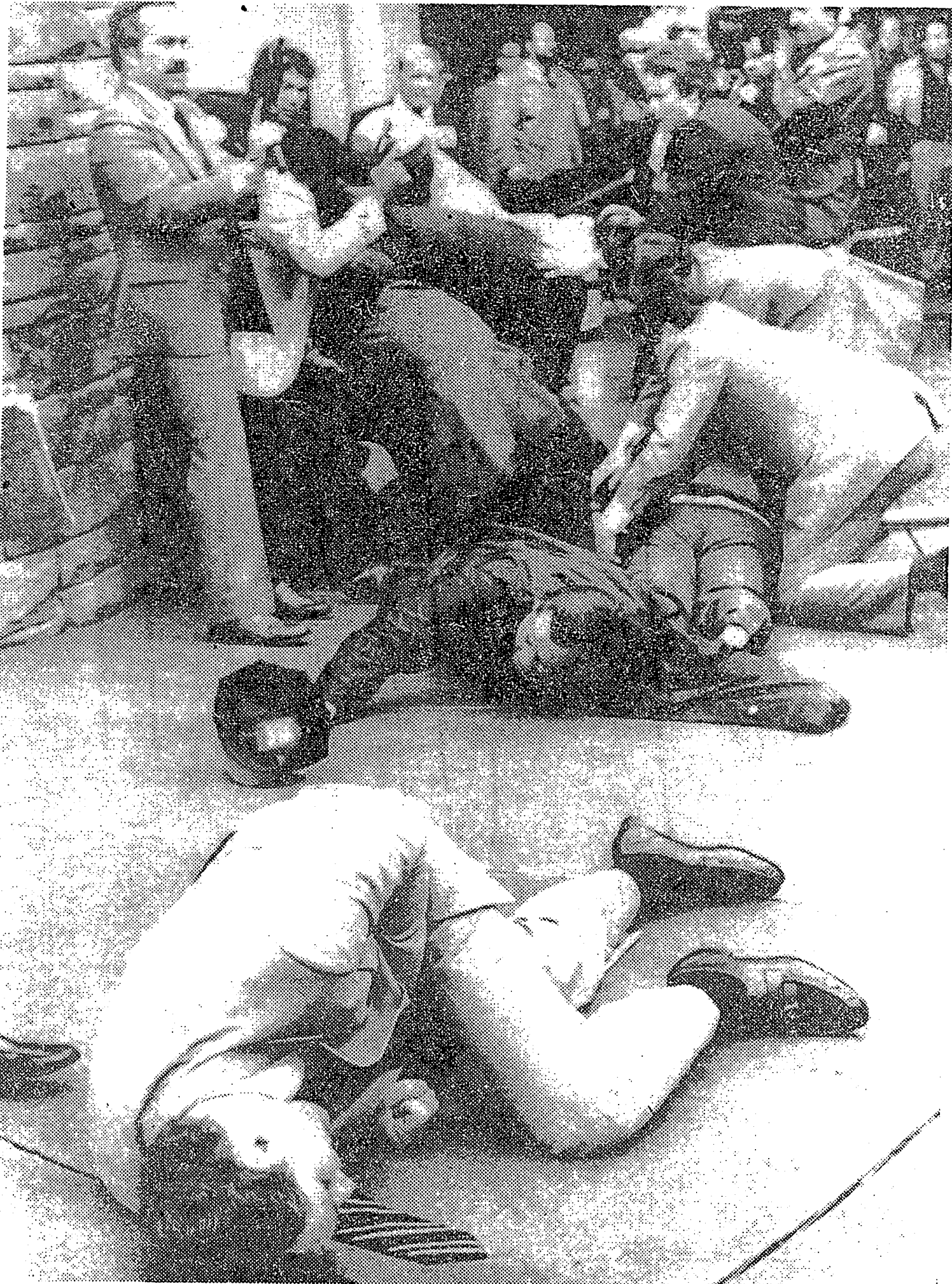
Sources said last night that the initial determination of the Justice Department was that the suspect had been acting alone.

Police said six shots were fired from a .22-caliber blue-steel revolver that Hinckley had purchased from Rocky's Pawn Shop in Dallas last Oct. 13.

A spokesman for the Hinckley family told reporters the suspect had been under psychiatric care, but offered no further details. A family spokesman in Colorado, attorney James Robinson, said the young man's family is "grieving and heartbroken by the tragedy. They love their son and will stick by him. Their hearts and prayers go out to the president and other victims of the shooting."

The Nashville Tennessean reported that a man of that name had been arrested at that city's airport last Oct. 9 with three guns in a suitcase. Two of the guns confiscated in Nashville were the same model .22-caliber revolvers used in the attempt on Reagan yesterday. President Carter had arrived in Nashville two hours before the arrest.

See PRESIDENT, A8, Col. 1



Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy, foreground, Officer Thomas K. Delahanty, press secretary James S. Brady lie wounded.

Recently Under Psychiatric Care

Suspected Gunman: An Aimless Drifter

By Ron Shaffer and Neil Henry
Washington Post Staff Writers

John Warnock Hinckley Jr., charged in the attempted assassination of President Reagan, had been under psychiatric care and was arrested last October in Nashville carrying three handguns in his suitcase during a visit by then-President Carter.

His arrest in downtown Washington yesterday apparently followed several years of aimless drifting — years during which the 25-year-old son of a wealthy western oilman dropped in and out of college in Texas and traveled through Colorado and Los Angeles in search of a job.

Law enforcement officials said that Hinckley had been in Washington only one day before the assassination attempt, staying at the Park Central Hotel at 18th and G streets NW. He told an official last night that he had received medication for five months while under the care of a private psychiatrist in Colorado.

Snapshots pictures of Hinckley over the years show the dissolution of a young man from a healthy, clean-cut kid in suburban Dallas to a disheveled, glassy-eyed drifter looking for odd jobs near his parents' new home just outside the wealthy Denver suburb of Evergreen.

Lawyer James Robinson, a spokes-

man for the Hinckley family, said in Colorado that Hinckley had been under psychiatric care, but he refused to provide any other details last night.

Although the parents acknowledged their son's mental problems, news that he had been arrested for attempting to kill the president came as a shock.

"This is a joke, isn't it," said Hinckley's mother, Joanne, when a reporter informed her that her son was arrested in the shooting. She had been watching television reports of the assassination attempt and was not aware that her son was in Washington, she said. Then her voice began to crack, and she hung up the telephone.

See SUSPECT, A9, Col. 1

The Shooting

By Lou Cannon
Washington Post Staff Writer

It was a routine scene that Ronald Reagan as politician and president had played a thousand times.

Reagan had delivered his basic speech, appealing for support for his economic program and deploring the increase in violent crime which was "making neighborhood streets unsafe and families fearful in their homes."

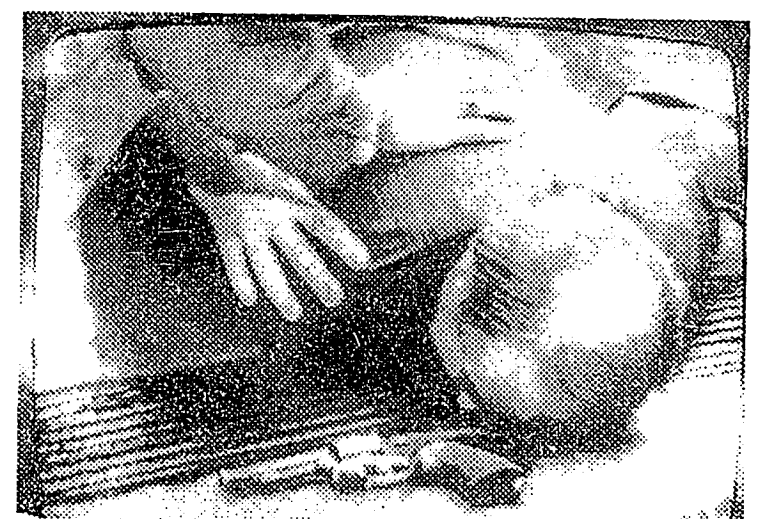
He was leaving the Washington Hilton Hotel through a VIP side door onto T Street. His armored limousine stood waiting for him in a driveway about 12 feet away. Secret Service agents were all around him. It was 2:25 p.m. on a typically rainy spring day, and Reagan, dressed in a blue suit with a white handkerchief in his pocket, seemed happy to be president.

Outside the hotel more than 100 persons had gathered. Reagan, as he always does, paused and waved to the crowd. The crowd cheered. Nearby, the president's press secretary, James S. Brady, walked toward a staff car, not looking at the president. To Reagan's left, slightly more than 10 feet away in a roped-off area, members of the crowd mixed with reporters and television cameramen who were photographing the president's departure.

Michael Putzel of Associated Press, ready with the inevitable question, called out, "Mr. President."

Abruptly, the scene changed. Shots rang out, six of them in quick succession, with a slight pause between the second shot and the third. The shots appeared to come from the roped-off press area to the left of and below the president. To those close to the rope restraining the press, the shots sounded like firecrackers. A woman screamed. A Secret Service agent yelled, "Get back, get back." Other agents

See SCENE, A10, Col. 1



United Press International

Press secretary James S. Brady lies wounded on the sidewalk.

The Morbid Echo

By Haynes Johnson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Moments after the crackle of gunfire echoed off the stone wall outside the hotel, an eyewitness said, "I knew it was more than just firecrackers."

It was an unnecessary remark. Within minutes Americans everywhere knew it had happened again — another president shot, another political promise interrupted by violence.

Commentary

There was no way to escape this replaying of the old national horror. Over and over, hour after hour, in slow motion, in stop action, and in all the other modern techniques of electronic communications, television brought home the latest installment of a continuing American tragedy.

And once again it was all too familiar: the sudden pap- See VIOLENCE, A12, Col. 3

Body of Black Child Found Near Atlanta

Authorities pulled the badly decomposed body of a black child from a river in a deserted area 16 miles from downtown Atlanta, another apparent victim of the elusive killer or killers who have murdered 21 black children there in less than two years.

Details on Page A5

Indonesian troops stormed an Indonesian jetliner in Bangkok, killing four of five hijackers and freeing more than 40 hostages. A soldier and the plane's pilot reportedly were wounded. Two American hostages were reported safe.

Details on Page A19

Poles Reach Accord; Union Suspends General Strike

By Brian Mooney
Reuter

WARSAW, March 30 — The independent Solidarity union movement suspended a potentially catastrophic general strike call today after marathon talks with the Communist government produced tentative agreement on major issues one hour before a union deadline was to expire.

The agreement seemed likely to relax, at least for the time being, the tensions building around the Polish crisis for the last several days as Moscow warned against "antisocialist" concessions to the labor leaders and U.S. officials warned against intervention

by Warsaw Pact troops on extended maneuvers in and around Poland.

The tentative accord followed two days of intense negotiations among Poland's Communist leaders and between the union and the government. It appeared to result from compromise on both sides but still remained subject to ratification by Solidarity's National Consultative Commission, which was due to meet at union headquarters in Gdansk on Tuesday.

"I am 70 percent satisfied with the agreement," Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, a moderate who fought to steer his movement away from what could have been a fatal collision

course with the authorities, told a nationally televised press conference.

"Tomorrow we go to work," said Andrzej Gwiazda, the second-ranking leader of Solidarity's 10 million members.

Walesa cautioned, however, that he can not guarantee that the union's decision-making executive body will accept the proposed accord. Solidarity, which staged a massive four-hour warning strike Friday that was unprecedented in Communist-ruled Poland, had called for an open-ended nationwide strike Tuesday if the government refused a series of demands.

At yesterday's Communist Party Central Committee meeting, the party

leadership in the Politburo came under attack from the rank and file after it accused elements of Solidarity of launching a power struggle against the Communists. Faced with the challenge, three hard-liners offered to resign. But the Central Committee ended the stormy 18-hour debate with a vote of confidence for the leadership and a call on the union to exercise restraint and discipline.

Among the most significant developments to emerge from the meeting in reports today were a call for elections and a call for the union to exercise restraint and discipline.

Workers' unity eases Poland's gravest crisis. Page A16

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