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Congressional Record S. 7835 - Shooting of Governor George Wallace

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The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. METCALF).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Edward L. R. Elson, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, look with compassion and forgiveness upon this troubled land. Cover our sins with Thy healing grace. Extinguish the fires of hate. Subdue all ill will at home and hasten the time of peace abroad. Bring healing and comfort to those who suffer.

Teach us anew, O Lord, what it means to be free to speak, to listen, to govern by the people in a republic of free men. Spare us from the fear that paralyzes and the confusion that makes a nation impotent. Guide all our leaders in service to the people. Lead us in love and fellowship with one another in unity of spirit and in the brotherhood of man for Thy greater glory.

We pray in the name of the Great Redeemer, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of Monday, May 15, 1972, be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOV. GEORGE WALLACE OF ALABAMA

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to express at this time my outrage and dismay at the tragedy which occurred at the Laurel Shopping Center in Montgomery yesterday.

I think, in a democracy such as ours, that every person has a right to voice his opinions. Whether we agree with it or not, it is beside the point. The first amendment still stands for candidates for the President as it does for every other citizen.

I must admit that I am horrified at what happened to Gov. George Wallace of Alabama on yesterday because, to me, it indicates a weakness of some kind in our democracy and a trend over the past decade which bodes no good for the future of this Republic.

I am happy that the President, last night, extended full Secret Service protection to Senator Kennedy and Representative Chisholm, and partial Secret Service protection to Representatives Miltis and Ashbrook, and to Eugene McCarthy.

No full protection can be accorded, certainly not when candidates go into the crowds, away from the protection of their bodyguards and those delegated to seek after their safety and security.

I do not know what the answer is. But I do want to deplore this dastardly act and to express my hope that Governor Wallace will recover and return to full health and will be able to resume his campaign at the earliest possible moment. It is the least we can expect.

For Governor Wallace, he will have my prayers for a speedy and full recovery.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the distinguished Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN) be substituted for the name of the distinguished Senator from Virginia (Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, Jr.) today, with respect to the unanimous-consent order of recognition of Senators, and that the order of recognition as between the Senator from Alaska (Mr. GRAVEL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN) be reversed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

In accordance with the unanimous-consent agreement just entered into, the Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN) is now recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I wish to express my very deep appreciation to the distinguished majority leader for his fine words, and my appreciation to him and to the distinguished assistant majority leader for allowing me 15 minutes' time at this order of the proceedings.

Mr. President, I also wish to express my appreciation to the distinguished Senator from Virginia (Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, Jr.) who allowed me to speak at this time and will take his 15 minutes at a later time during the day.

Mr. President, the Nation is shocked and grieved at the cruel blow that has been dealt to Gov. George C. Wallace by a would-be assassin. It is only natural that in the forefront of those who are saddened by this tragedy are the proud people of Alabama, for Governor Wallace, as Governor of our State, is her first citizen and is much beloved by our people. Therefore, I am one of the people of my great State and on behalf of my distinguished senior colleague (Mr. SPEARMAN) and the distinguished members of the Alabama delegation in the House, and on my own behalf, I express in this great body our deep sorrow and sympathy for Governor Wallace and Mrs. Cornelia Wallace and other members of the Wallace family and give our assurances of our prayers and best wishes for his recovery.

The attempted assassination of Governor Wallace was a cruel and dastardly act which will be universally condemned by all Americans. It is ironic that the standing advocate of law and order in the presidential race should be the victim of such a criminal stroke.

America must be made safe from law violators and criminals who place themselves above the law and who would seek to strike down a man who entertains and expresses views different from their own.

Mr. President, tragedy upon tragedy has been written on the pages of our contemporary political history. The senseless shooting of Governor Wallace is but another evidence of the growing trend in efforts to destroy law and order in our country. It was against this very trend that Governor Wallace was fighting, for there is something wrong with our democratic processes when a public official, in taking his candidacy to the people, literally places his life in jeopardy when he exercises his right of free speech guaranteed to him under the Constitution.

The current issue of the U.S. News & World Report shows that Governor Wallace, though he has not entered all of the presidential preference primaries this year, has received a greater popular vote than any other candidate for President this year.

What has been the secret of his success? People identify with him. They feel that he is one of them, that he is sincerely interested in their welfare, safety, and the betterment of their lives, that he speaks for them, that they know where he stands, that he has never been afraid to stick his neck out when principle is at stake.

Mr. President, when Governor Wallace began carrying his crusade to the people of America in the various primaries a few weeks ago he caught the imagination of the people of America with his awareness and discernment of America's problems. By his attentiveness at getting to the crux of the Nation's problems heretofore ignored by many, he changed the entire complexion of the primaries and defined the issues in this election year.

Millions upon millions of Americans see in Governor Wallace the strength, the good, and the faith that characterizes the true spirit and heritage of America. They recognize that here is a man who instinctively and sincerely understands their struggle for law and order, for the sanctity of their homes and their battle against high taxes, inflation, giveaway programs, forced busing, and perhaps most important the need for a fresh approach against the historic flow of power from the people to a faceless bureaucracy in Washington.

As a result of Governor Wallace's crusade, the people of America are sending to Washington a message that is being heard loud and clear by members of the Washington crowd. This message will influence the presidential campaign of 1972 and will have a decided effect on the political philosophy of this country and the direction in which our vast Federal bureaucracy is moved.

Yes, Mr. President, the people are sending to Washington a message through the vehicle of their votes in the Democratic primaries, votes that are
Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I rise also, as did the Senator from Alabama and the distinguished majority leader, to express my feelings about the dastardly act that took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

I consider myself an opponent of the views expressed in the course of his campaign by the Governor of Alabama, but I think he not only had a right but every moral right to push for the views that he held so strongly. I can say he was a great advocate of the cause he pursues.

I not only decry the senselessness—and I had occasion to view the film of the blowing up on television—but I also do not think there is any normal citizen who