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Reagan is 'A-OK'

Press aide, 2 lawmen also shot



With a bullet in his lung and chaos in the air, Reagan is shoved into his limousine for a quick ride to the hospital and surgery

By **TERENCE HUNT**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan was wounded in the chest yesterday by a gunman who tried to assassinate him with a burst of .22-caliber bullets that critically injured his press secretary, James S. Brady. Reagan "sailed through surgery," according to doctors, who said he'd be ready to make White House decisions by today.

But Brady was said to be fighting for his life with a bullet through his brain.

Dr. Dennis O'Leary said "a really mangled bullet" was removed from Reagan's left lung. He said the president's condition was stable, the prognosis excellent.

"Honey, I forgot to duck," Reagan told his wife as he was wheeled into surgery. Then he told the doctors he hoped they were Republicans.

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 gave them a note that said, 'All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia.'"

A Secret Service agent and a policeman also were wounded in the midafternoon blaze of gunfire outside a Washington hotel where Reagan had just addressed a union convention. They were reported in serious condition, but apparently not in danger.

A youthful, sandy-haired gunman from a suburb of Denver was wrestled into handcuffs and arrested moments after he leveled his pistol at the president and fired from near point-blank range. The Secret Service identified him as John Warnock Hinckley Jr., 25, of Evergreen, Colo.

There was no explanation for the savage burst of gunfire that exploded as the president stood beside his limousine, ready to step inside for a rainy, one-mile ride back to the White House.

One witness said the assailant, standing 10 feet from the president, "just opened up and continued squeezing the trigger."

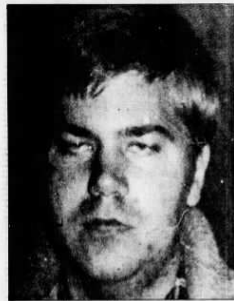
Anxious hours later, Reagan was pronounced in good and stable condition after surgery.

"I can reassure this nation and a watching world that the American government is functioning fully and effectively," Vice President George Bush said at the White House last night. "We've had full and complete communication throughout the day."

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."

O'Leary served as spokesman for two surgeons who operated on Reagan at George Washington University Hospital. They made a
(See WOUNDED REAGAN, Page 8A)



Hinckley: No explanation



Brady: "Fighting for life"

Inside on Reagan

- Local and state leaders' reactions. Page 2A.
- The story in pictures. Page 3A.
- Suspect John W. Hinckley Jr.'s past: psychiatric care and a handgun arrest. Page 6A.
- President Reagan's family heads to Washington for "a mission of love." Page 6A.
- The scene of the shooting. Page 7A.

- Television was nearly everyone's companion during the hours of crisis. Page 1C.
- Stock and bond prices fall, and the nation's stock exchanges close early after learning of President Reagan's wounding. Page 1G.

Weather

Just beautiful. Sunny skies, warmer temperatures and occasional breezes are forecast today. A high near 80 is expected, and an overnight low in the middle. Yesterday's high and low were 78 and 45.
Snow showers were widely scattered from the northern Rockies to Utah yesterday. Strong winds from afternoon thunderstorms downed many trees and power lines in southeastern Virginia. Rain was also reported in South Dakota and portions of New Mexico and central Arizona.
Thunderstorms are forecast today from the central Gulf Coast through the Tennessee Valley. Rain will be scattered over northern Maine, Minnesota and North Dakota.
Yesterday's national temperature extremes were 17 at West Yellowstone, Mont., and 50 at Laredo, Texas. Details on Page 4A.

News

Paramedics criticized. A Tucson doctor tells the City Council that Fire Department paramedics are "killing people in the streets" by incompetent and ill-adviced treatment at the scenes of auto accidents and other mishaps. Fire Chief E. Dean Holland denies the claim. Page 1B.
Another body found. The body of another child has been found near Atlanta, where a police task force is investigating the slayings of 20 black children and the disappearances of two others. Page 4A.
Hijacked plane stormed. Indonesian troops swarm onto an Indonesian jetliner in Bangkok, Thailand, and kill four of five hijackers who had held 20 people hostage. After a three-minute gunbattle, the captives are freed, and Indonesian officials report that none of the hostages was killed. Page 1B.

Money

Rescuing the jobsless. Private industry in growing cities should be able to pick up some of the slack and provide jobs for workers laid off by the government, William Kolberg, president of the National Alliance of Business says. Page 1G.

Entertainment

Oscars postponed. The nationally televised 53rd Academy Awards ceremony is postponed until tonight because of the assassination attempt on President Reagan. Page 1C.

Lifestyle

Spread it thin. Good news for peanutfactor lovers: prices have probably peaked and should remain relatively stable. The bad news: an 18-ounce jar that was \$1.29 is now \$1.18 — a 7% percent rise in six months. Page 1D.

Sports

Hoosiers win. All-America guard Jack Thomas leads Indiana to a 65-59 victory over North Carolina and the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship in a game that was nearly postponed by the assassination attempt on President Reagan. The national title is the second in six seasons for the Big Ten-champion Hoosiers. Page 1E.

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Polish strike off — Polish union leader Lech Walesa leaves after seven hours of talks with government negotiators that ended in an agreement averting today's scheduled general strike. Story, Page 10A. (AP)