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SJJ

April 1, 1981

FROM: MS - Capitol Hill

TO: MLS, LT, DR, JF, DCB, CAS, RAB, KJ, MW, PGH

RE: Hill Reaction to Haig

In speaking with House Republicans, I found a considerable amount of dissatisfaction with Haig's performance on Monday, dissatisfaction heightened by its nearness to last week's flap over crisis management.

From House Minority Whip Trent Lott of Mississippi: "I do not feel comfortable with the way it was handled. It didn't set too well with me. Maybe it was the word (control) that bothered me. I would not go so far as to say he is becoming a liability. I have been very concerned about the level of exposure given to him and the discussion given last week to crisis management^E. I have been personally disappointed with a number of incidents going so far back as the dispute with Stockman on foreign aid. I think he has a lot to offer. I hope he'll re-evaluate his approach and move to a lower profile and become the valuable asset that I feel he could be. I know it has left a sour taste in my mouth. I am not satisfied with the way he has been handling things. I don't like the appearance of turf building and sniping at other cabinet members."

From another high Republican: "I don't know what he was doing. It was one of the most puzzling things about the whole day (Monday)."

From still another Republican leader: "I think his performance was asinine, totally stupid. In the first

place, he didn't even know what he was talking about. I think he damaged himself badly. He looked like a man who was grabbing for power. One or two more incidents like this and yes, he would be diverting attention from the main issue -- the economy."

Representative Larry Hopkins (R-Ky.), who calls himself a Haig fan, said: "I think he made a mistake. This was not ^Athe situation where he needed to take charge. His performance is going to raise the question that if he acts like this under these circumstances, how is he going to act when millions of lives are at stake?"

Not everyone criticized Haig, though. Representative Clair W. Burgener, ~~Secretary~~ of the House Republican Conference, called Haig's actions "appropriate. I think he wanted to send a clear and strong message to our allies and our adversaries that someone ^{IS} ~~was~~ running the shop. The only reason anyone would second-guess him at all was because the crisis-management controversy came the week before."

House Democratic Whip Bill Alexander of Arkansas also complimented Haig, saying he admired him for taking a strong stand. (Exact quotes not immediately available; however, copies containing them are in both my office and CAS's office if needed urgently. Otherwise, will supply later.)

ORY:CONMS3
RA:83 FMT:

QUEUE:MS-MS
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:MS

;04/31,16:47

To: MLS, LT, DR, JF, DCB, CAS, RAB, KJ, PGH, MW

From: MS

Re: More on Haig

From House Democratic Whip Bill Alexander:

On Haig: "I kind of like Haig. I think he has demonstrated leadership and resolve. It doesn't offend me that he's direct and decisive. I'm pleased to have someone in government who will take a position."

(END)

STORY:WHU1
MA:60 FMT:

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04/01,09:28

SJF

To: wlc mls lt jf dr lh gp rak jg dcb dxb jwm tjf pa pgh

From: sjf

Impact of the Reagan Assassination Attempt

President Reagan not only escaped the assassination attempt with his life, he also may have come out of it with a brighter political future.

While the injury will curtail Reagan's efforts on behalf of his economic program, top White House advisers say it has earned him so much good will with the American people that his program will be harder for Democrats to oppose.

"There will be a positive reaction in Congress," said Max Friedersdorf, Reagan's chief lobbyist. "Anytime a leader is harmed in any way, there's always a natural sympathy. I think it will enhance his relations with Congress. I think it will increase his popularity."

Another senior White House official added: "He becomes a kind of a hero in the public eye. It's much harder to attack a hero than a politician."

"His popularity will be enhanced by his courage, warmth and humor," said Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker.

My favorite quote comes from Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, who told an ABC television interviewer: "It's made us determined even more to push even harder and win one for the Gipper."

But there are drawbacks. In addition to the obvious discomfort of being hospitalized for the next few weeks, Reagan must face these problems:

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Alexander Haig's decision to take command at the White House on Monday has revived the controversy over the powers of the Secretary of State. The betting now is that Haig will be gone by June.

* The President probably will be forced to find a new press secretary--an extremely delicate matter under the circumstances. Even if Jim Brady survives, he will not be able to return to work anytime soon. Nofziger was asked by Deaver to take the job, but he refused. The search for a new press secretary already is underway.

* Many of Reagan's new initiatives will be postponed. Among them is the "new federalism" task force that the President was supposed to announce Wednesday.

The White House Without Reagan. Reagan's hospitalization will not impede normal operations at the White House, aides say. That's because Reagan does not normally get involved in the nitty-gritty, day-to-day decision-making.

Vice President Bush already has assumed many of Reagan's ceremonial duties. Although this will solidify Bush's already strong position within the administration, it's not expected to win him any new duties on a permanent basis.

What will suffer most with Reagan in the hospital is the selling of his economic program. The President will not be able to meet with congressional leaders and outside groups. He will be forced to cancel a number of scheduled trips around the country to sell his economic program.

Before the assassination attempt, Reagan was planning

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in a one-day trips to state capitols to sell his economic program. The first one was scheduled for Wednesday--a speech before the Illinois state legislature in Springfield.

That's when he planned to announce his federalism task force. The second trip, scheduled for April 15, would have emphasized Reagan's tax cut plan. Rich Williamson, Reagan's assistant for intergovernmental affairs, says that when the President was shot they were still in the process of selecting three other state capitols in different regions of the country-- the Northeast, the South and the West.

The "new federalism" task force that Reagan was scheduled to appoint in Springfield will be named later, according to Williamson. It will include six governors, five state representatives, five mayors and five private citizens. The task force will come up with plans to fulfill Reagan's campaign promise to return to the states the administration of welfare, control of natural resources and some revenue sources.

Security Precautions. President Reagan is not expected to change his way of operating as a result of the assassination attempt. Nor is he expected to alter his opposition to gun control. As one aide says, "If he's going to be a hero, he's going to have to act like one."

Although Reagan wore a bullet-proof vest sometimes during the campaign, Chief of Staff James Baker says he knows of one occasion on which Reagan has worn one since becoming President. During the campaign, says Baker, it was worn in

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large crowds ``where it's very difficult to see the crowd-- see the people that make up the crowd.''

Who's in Charge? Although Baker insists the White House staff is not upset with the way that Haig took charge on Monday night, all evidence points in the opposite direction. (Nofziger told us off the record that he expects Haig to be out by June because of what he described as a ``pattern'' of behavior--see RAK's memo.) Here is a summary of the events on Monday involving Haig:

3:39 p.m. White House Staff Director David Gergen announces that the Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Defense and Attorney General are in the Situation Room.

4:09 p.m. Larry Speakes, during a briefing for reporters, is asked whether the military has been put on alert. He sends the question to the Situation Room.

4:14 p.m. Apparently responding to Speakes' query, Haig Haig comes to the White House press room with Richard Allen at his side. Haig is shaking and sweating heavily. ``There are absolutely no alert measures that are necessary at this time we're contemplating,'' he said. ``The crisis management is in effect.

Q: Who is making decisions for the government now?

A: ``Constitutionally gentlemen, you have the President, the Vice president, and the Secretary of State in that order and should the President decided he wants to transfer the helm to the Vice President he will do so. He has not

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

According to White House aides who were down in the Situation Room, Haig maintained an open line to the hospital. He also was in touch with the Vice President's plane. Weinberger maintained a line to the Pentagon and Regan maintained a line to the Secret Service.

Haig ran the Situation Room until the Vice President arrived about 7 p.m. During that time, a dispute arose between Haig and Weinberger. Chief of Staff Baker insists there was no disagreement about who was in charge. But he admits "there was some difference of opinion between Secretary Haig and Secretary Weinberger." Another White House aide describes it as "a very extraordinary afternoon."

8:20 p.m. After meeting with the Cabinet in the Situation Room, Bush came to the press room with his statement that the government was "functioning fully and effectively." After Bush departed, Speakes was deluged with questions about the chain of command. Under questioning, he accidentally divulged what Jim Baker later described as a classified secret--that there is a "command authority" that flows from the President to the Defense Secretary in cases of military emergency. According to Baker, it "applies only in a very narrow, narrow, limited range of

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c. cumstances--none of which were even approached."

Afterwards: In an effort to smooth things over, Baker says that White House staffers did not object when Haig voluntarily took charge on Monday. He says it was agreed that Haig as the "senior Cabinet officer" would be the "chief contact point" between the Situation Room and the people at the hospital, which included Meese and Baker.

As Baker explains it, there are three different ways for power to devolve from the President. He says they were "positioned" for all three:

- * The "normal chain of command," which was described by Haig. This is used when the President is still technically in control, as he was on Monday.

- * The 25th amendment, which would be invoked if the President had died or been seriously disabled.

- * The "command authority" that falls to the Secretary of Defense in times of military danger.

Despite the controversy, White House officials say, President Reagan never relinquished command throughout the entire day.

Who Will be Press Secretary? Without Jim Brady, the President faces a serious problem. Jim's chief deputy, Karna Small, is not up to the job. Although reporters seem to get along well with Larry Speakes, his ties to the Ford crowd make him unpopular with many Reaganites--particularly Pfizer. Speakes also did not do himself any good by disclosing a classified secret on Monday night.

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... the way: White House aides are furious with the Northern Virginia Sun, which Tuesday printed a map showing the location of Brady's house.

The Investigation. Even though they've got a suspect, a weapon and a motive, the FBI is trying find everyone who was near the scene of the shooting on Monday. That amounts to several hundred people. I was interviewed on Tuesday by two FBI agents, who explained it this way: "A few years from now, we don't want an eyewitness to show up saying 'I saw something, but nobody interviewed me'."

Reagan's One Liners. Here's a rundown of Reagan's hospital jokes.

To his wife, "Honey, I forgot to duck."
To Meese, Baker, Deaver, "Who's minding the store?"
To the surgeons, "Please tell me you're Republicans."
To the doctors, "If I'd gotten this much attention in Hollywood, I would not have left."

In writing, "As Winston Churchill said, 'There is no more exhilarating feeling than being shot without result.'"

He also repeated W.C. Fields' line, "I'd rather be in Philadelphia."

For the Record. Attached is a copy of my pool report from the shooting scene.

(END)

STORY
MA:68

TO: MR. TOLSON, MR. DELOACH, MR. MOHR, MR. BISHOP, MR. WICK,
PA, PSB, MR. GALE,
FROM: MR. [unclear]
RE: Wofziger's views

Haig's futur. In a background-only session with us late Tuesday, White House political adviser Lyn Wofziger predicted off the record, that Alexander Haig is on his way out. "I think he'll be the first member of the cabinet to go," said Wofziger. Pressed on how soon Haig's departure might occur, Wofziger said he would be surprised if Haig lasted past June. But he emphasized that he was only speculating and, of course, does not want to be quoted saying anything about the subject.

Wofziger left us with the unmistakable impression that he would love to get rid of Haig. Wofziger has complained for weeks that Haig acts too independently of the White House. Asked whether it would take another incident like Haig's conduct in the Situation Room and his shaky performance before live network television cameras Monday, Wofziger said something like, "I don't know that it will take another incident, but another incident sure would help (hearty laugh) - There's a pattern developing." (reference to Haig's conduct.)

Wofziger's candid views are important because he is one of Reagan's most trusted and longtime advisers. His opinion carries considerable weight in the Reagan inner sanctum.

It also is important to remember that Nofziger is a notorious leaker and only leaks things that are, of course, to his advantage.

Nofziger claims to know little about the dispute between Weinberger and Haig in the Situation Room. He assured us only that no blows were exchanged, as some reports had suggested.

Brady replacement. Nofziger has been asked by Mike Deaver whether he would be willing to take the job of press secretary. He rejected the offer, but said he would be willing to fill in for a couple of months if needed until a replacement for Brady is found.

No decision has yet been made on an interim press secretary, but Nofziger made clear—again—his dislike for Larry Speakes, the deputy press secretary who always has stood in for Brady. Speakes is a good number-two man, says Nofziger, but he does not "command authority" the way a presidential spokesman should. My guess is that Nofziger just doesn't like Speakes, who has ties to the Ford administration. (He once described Speakes to me as a "horse's ass.") At any rate, Nofziger said there are other people in the White House who are opposed to elevating Speakes to the job of press secretary. Nofziger already has offered a recommendation for a replacement for Brady, but he did not tell us who he has recommended, except to say that the person is from outside the administration. Shouldn't we do a box or a current on the

search for a new presidential spokesman?

Bayside's political fortunes. In his uniquely pragmatic and devious way, Nofziger is thrilled over the shooting of the President. "We got started with a bang," he says unabashedly.

"It sounds crass," Nofziger said, trying only slightly to conceal his glee, "but an incident like this is a big help...It's going to make it a little harder for the Democrats to kick him (the President) around. He will become a public hero not just because he was shot but also because of the way he's handled it. It's easier to attack a politician than it is to attack a public hero. These Democrats on the Hill may separate the man from his programs, but I don't think the public will."

Adds Nofziger: "If he's going to be a national hero, he's got to act like it," implying that Reagan will come riding out of his hospital bed on a white charger to capitalize fully on the political rewards of surviving an attempted assassination. Clearly, Reagan is not going to shy away from meeting the public because of Monday's incident. Nofziger suggested--only half in jest, I think--that if Congress balks at the Reagan economic program, "We'll put his arm in a sling and issue statements from the hospital bed saying, 'I'm dying and you guys won't give me my tax cut.'"

"This kind of thing just naturally rallies the country behind the woundee. I don't know that it eliminates any

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problems, but it makes everything a little easier."

Bush's role. Nofziger says the additional responsibilities that the Vice President has taken on this week are strictly temporary, but he praised Bush for knowing when not to "interfere" and for building a good working partnership with Reagan. Bush seems to appreciate the importance of exercising discretion, and that fact is appreciated by Reagan and the senior White House staff. Bush attends many, many Oval Office meetings with Reagan and the senior staff, but apparently knows how to keep his mouth shut, deferring for the most part to the Reaganites. They seem to have no complaints with Timber Wolf, as Bush is known to the agents. The Vice President's stature obviously is growing and there appear to be no strains between him and Reagan or between the White House staff and the Veep's men.

At least for the rest of this week, Bush will take over Reagan's schedule. He met yesterday with the prime minister of the Netherlands in the Oval Office and held a cabinet meeting. During the session with the cabinet, Bush diplomatically sat in the Vice President's chair, leaving the President's vacant. "He runs the meetings and calls on various people for reports and that kind of thing," says Speakes.

The President. Nofziger insists that Reagan is every bit as vigorous as a man 20 years younger. One of his first questions to his doctors was, "Will I be able to do ranch work?" Says Nofziger, "He's a horse."

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Reagan felt some pain after the shooting, says Nofziger, but thought he had broken a rib as he was being shoved into the limo. The President started "coughing up blood and that's when they decided they better go to the hospital." Reagan thought a broken rib had punctured his lung. He did not know until he reached the emergency room that he had been shot.

Jim Baker said in a briefing for reporters Tuesday, "He [the President] had walked into the hospital on his own, under his own power, and fallen, sort of passed out there in the emergency room...He collapsed. He was given transfusions and his condition was resotored, stable."

Throughout the campaign, Reagan wore a protective vest only sporadically, when there was some hint that he might be in danger. He wasn't wearing a vest Monday, according to Baker, and he apparently hasn't worn one since Inauguration Day.

Secret Service. The Secret Service is reviewing its procedures, says Nofziger, but apparently no major changes are being planned. Nofziger mentioned the possibility of increasing the number of agents and possibly moving crowds back farther from the President.

(END)

SJF

STORY:MEMO2
MA:68 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
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OPR:RAK :04/01,14:57

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, JWM, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH, TG, AT, WLG

FROM: RAK

RE: Gergen's views

Haig's role. White House Staff Director David Gergen points out on background that the Reagan administration-- from Ed Meese and Jim Baker to senior members of the cabinet--is making a concerted effort to publicly ``send a signal`` that will dampen speculation that Alexander Haig's days as secretary of state are numbered. Nevertheless, Gergen concedes there are those in the White House who would not be unhappy to see Haig go.

Some ``people in the woodwork`` are sniping at Haig, he says. (He blames this on staff frictions.) My own suspicion is that Meese, who has publicly praised Haig in recent days, may be one of his biggest detractors. I say this only because at every opportunity he has had to laud Haig, Meese has done so with somewhat faint praise, lumping the secretary of state in with the rest of the cabinet and praising the performance of the whole group. And, of course, last week's brouhaha over the crisis management team pitted Meese against Haig. We can also add Lyn Norrigger to the ranks of the woodwork gang.

Says Gergen, ``We're all trying hard to make sure we're in the harness, part of one team and I think we can make it work. He [Haig] can accomplish a great deal for this

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administration and I think it's time we stopped taking shots at him." My guess is that the White House considers it crucial at this time to endorse Haig or otherwise run the risk of undermining him (just as he prepares to go to the Mideast) and, in the process, cripple U.S. foreign policy and the credibility of the Reagan administration abroad.

That does not mean, however, that Haig is here to stay. Gergen admits that Haig is unaccustomed to the "collegial" atmosphere of the Reagan White House, is used to being his own boss.

Haig vs. Weinberger. Add Cap Weinberger to the ranks of the woodwork gang, too. Gergen was in the Situation Room during Monday's crisis and says too much is being made of the tiff between Weinberger and Haig. But Gergen doesn't quarrel with the reports that Weinberger was unhappy with Haig over his performance before network cameras Monday afternoon when he left the impression that he was in control of U.S. armed forces.

"There were some differing points of view and we've made no secret of that...It passed very quickly, though, and I don't think it left any scars." Then Gergen added quickly, "We're walking a fine line here. I don't want to undermine my own credibility by misleading you. There were some problems." Both Jim Baker and Gergen stressed yesterday the Haig-Weinberger conflict never centered on who was in command in the Situation Room.

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In sum, it appears that perhaps the most important long-range implication of the assassination attempt on Reagan is that it sealed the fate of Haig. Or at the very least, the secretary of state drove another nail into his own coffin.

The President's schedule. Reagan was reluctant to cancel his trip to Cincinnati next week to throw out the first baseball. His doctors apparently persuaded him that he should not go. But Reagan's planned trip to California on April 23 and his talks in Tijuana with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo are still on, although that could change if there is some delay in his recuperation. Gergen suggests that Rawhide may get out of the hospital late next week, spend a week or so working at the White House and then go to California earlier than he had planned to get some rest. None of these decisions has yet been made, though, and only Reagan will decide where he recuperates.

To keep Reagan's schedule light during his convalescence, Bush may fill in for him at "ceremonial" occasions and possibly make some of the trips to address state legislatures that Reagan had planned to make.

Efforts will be made to reduce the number of nonessential visitors Reagan will see in the Oval Office, and the written material he is expected to read each day will be reduced. "There will be an effort in the next few weeks to bring decisions together in a summary form...I don't think you'll find much delay...But he won't be burdened with long, long papers," says Gergen.

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One last point on Reagan: Gergen harbors some slight fears that the wounding of the 70-year-old President may take a toll. It's really too early to assess the full medical impact, says Gergen. "It could change the style of his presidency somewhat. He's been going at it pretty hard, like a man of 50, and some people around here have wondered whether he should have been doing that, anyway."

Secret Service. Gergen echoed Senator Paul Laxalt's view that "the President will never become a prisoner in the White House." The Secret Service is about to announce a full-scale review of its operations for protecting the President, but Gergen does not expect major changes to be made.

He noted that, ironically, the Washington Hilton was designed in part to provide extra protection for the many Presidents who go there regularly. (Is this a Whisper?) I think Gergen was referring to the special security door through which Reagan exited before he was shot. He pointed out that the trip to the Hilton was a very "controlled" setting in which the President was not exposed for long. "Maybe you get lax in on of those controlled settings," said Gergen, but he carefully avoided criticizing the SS. I don't think anyone at the White House blames the agents for the incident.

Political consequences. The White House must be careful, says Gergen, to not appear to be exploiting the shooting incident. So there will be few changes in the way the

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President seeks to sell his economic package, with the exceptions that he will not do as much travelling and probably will not be able to bring members of the House Ways and Means Committee to the White House as often as he had intended to cajole them on the tax cut.

"If there's a political fallout, it's probably that some of the cutting edges on some of the issues will be blunted. The dialogue will not be as harsh...It will take some of the sting out of the partisan criticism," says Gergen. It's hard to criticize a President for being insensitive to the poor, etc., when there is universal sympathy for him among voters.

Bush: "Bush is winning very high marks from inside [The White House] because he's handled this with a certain grace. He's been very modest about the role he's playing," says Gergen. Gergen is a longtime supporter of Bush, but his view of the Vice President has been repeated by the California crowd, too.

As a matter of deference, Bush is purposefully staying out of the Oval Office while Reagan is away. (Gergen says it is not true that Bush met the prime minister of the Netherlands in the Oval Office Tuesday. They met in the Roosevelt Room.)

As to Bush's relationship with Reagan: "It seems to me that there has been a buildup of trust and affection between the two men...George has been reluctant to push the relationship." Instead, he has had the good sense to let

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Reagan set at his own speed the tone of their relationship.

Brady's future. There are no plans at this point to actively look for a replacement for Brady. ``With Jim in the condition he's in, we're not going to make a move. It would be entirely unfair to him.'' Brady has been responding well and it's possible, according to Baker, that he may escape with just partial paralysis, with his mental capacities unharmed.

For now, says Gergen, Larry Speakes will continue to stand in for Brady. Incidentally, Gergen says Brady's staff has placed a teddy bear in his chair (He is nicknamed The Bear.) and closed his office door. No one is using his office.

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STORY:WHU2
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
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OPR:SJF ;04/01,15:39

To: wlc mls lt jf dr lh gp rak jg dcb dxb jwm pa pgh

From: sjf

Interview with Ed Meese.

_ Meese wanted to make two points:

* Haig did nothing wrong on Monday, but Weinberger follows Bush in the chain-of-command in cases of emergency.

* It's still business as usual at the White House.

_This is the standard line that has been expressed by Meese, Jim Baker and their deputies in a remarkable blitz of White House press interviews over the past two days. They could have used a revolving door in the West Wing lobby today there were so many reporters going in and out.

The Haig Saga. While defending Haig, Meese was careful to mention that in an emergency the authority passes from the President to the Vice President to the Secretary of Defense. He also volunteered that Haig and Weinberger have been invited to visit the President separately later this week before leaving on trips.

Meese insists there is ``no basis`` for speculation that Haig is on his way out. He sees ``no reason`` why Haig will not be Secretary of State at this time next year. ``There's absolutely no rift between the White House and Mr. Haig as has been reported,`` he says.

Asked about Haig's performance on Monday, he replies: ``He was doing his job well that day. He acted properly. You had a lot of Cabinet officers in the Situation Room. Each one was doing their own job. The Secretary of Defense was in

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contact with the Pentagon. The Secretary of the Treasury was in contact with the Secret Service. The Attorney General was in contact with the FBI. The Secretary of State was having his people prepare cables."

Business As Usual. Meese got so carried away with his "business as usual" theme that he almost forgot that the President had canceled his scheduled trips to Springfield, Ill., this week and Cincinnati next week.

Reagan's trip to Mexico in late April has not been canceled, and Meese seems confident that President will be able to keep his date with President Lopez Portillo.

According to Meese, Reagan will remain in the hospital about 10 days. Aides David Fischer and Helene Von Damm are spending most of their time at the hospital and senior staff will visit several times a day.

The President will do his recuperating in the East Wing residence, not in California or Camp David. Although he will be meeting with fewer people, he'll continue to conduct business by telephone. Congress and Cabinet members will be invited to the White House to meet with him during his recuperation. Bush will relinquish the President's ceremonial duties as soon as Reagan can resume.

Political Impact. Meese subscribes to the theory that the shooting is a political plus for Reagan. "It's clear proof of his physical stamina," says Meese. "The way he reacted all that will further enhance people's view of him."

Security. Although Meese is anxious to see the results of

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the Secret Service's own probe into the shooting incident, he sees no way the system can be improved. ``Frankly, I don't know how you can do it any better as long as you have a President who likes to get out and meet people.''

He adds: ``Gun control wouldn't have changed what happened.''

(END)

STORY:WHU3
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
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OPR:SJF ;04/01,16:49

wlc mls lt jf dr lh gp rak jg dcb dxb jwm tjf pa pgh

From: sjf

Odds and Ends from the White House

The White House has received messages from 80 heads of state, including Brezhnev and Castro. In addition, there have been 7,500 telegrams and mailgrams from well wishers.

The text of the Brezhnev memo: "It is with indignation that we learned of the attempt on your life. We resolutely condemn this criminal act. In the name of Soviet leaders and on my own behalf, I wish you, Mr. President, a complete and speedy recovery. L. Brezhnev."

Hospital Accomodations. The President's entourage has taken over nearly a whole corridor at the hospital. The President himself has a \$234-a-day private room with beige walls, two blue easy chairs, a rust-colored sofa and a television on the wall. A White House telephone has been installed in the anteroom. Aides David Fischer and Helene Von Damm are using an office across the hall. Also on the corridor is a room where Dr. Ruge sleeps, a sitting room for Mrs. Reagan, another White House staff room and a room occupied by Reagan's military aide.

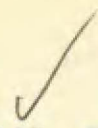
Press Secretary. Brady has counted to three on command and tossed a cotton ball to his wife with each hand. As for a temporary or permanent successor, no one will talk about it until Brady's condition is known. Lyn Nofziger's claim that he was offered the job may not be true. An aide to Nofziger says he was angry that he was not asked to take the job

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temporarily.

Footnote. Had President Reagan not been shot on Monday, the stories in Tuesday's newspapers would have reported that his speech to the AFL-CIO building trades meeting was a bomb. Reagan ignored his advisers' recommendation that he give a tough anti-Communist speech with some mention of nuclear power. He lost his audience by opening with a long litany of complaints against government regulation.

(END)



TO: JBG (MLS, LT, JG, GP, JWM, SJE, PA, WLC)
FROM: RAK
RE: Phone conversation with Max Friedersdorf

Friedersdorf says there is no "mystery" to the White House's strategy for winning congressional approval of Reagan's economic package, but a few general rules are followed.

One of the most important is to maximize the personal contact Reagan has with members of Congress. Reagan has had over 400 members to the White House since January 20. "He is his own best lobbyist. He's always very relaxed, very comfortable and persuasive. But he's firm in the best sense of that word...The biggest factor in our favor is the man's personality and style."

"He establishes immediate rapport. He's easy to get to know. I've heard several members comment how easy the President is to talk to, how they feel they've known him for a long time...The channels of communication are open and great." (Needless to say, Friedersdorf was speaking on the record.)

The White House lobbyist seems particularly proud of the friendship developing between Speaker O'Neil and the President. He mentioned the fact that both men like baseball and are about the same age. They always seem to have plenty to talk about to each other.

The shooting. Friedersdorf sees one drawback in the

assassination attempt: Reagan's personal lobbying will have to be curtailed somewhat. Whenever possible, Bush will stand in for Reagan. (For example, Bush may fill in for the President at some upcoming White House meetings with members of House Ways and Means.) But that liability is outweighed by the political benefits the President will reap. "Any President's fortunes on the Hill correlate with his popularity in the country," says Friedersdorf, noting that this President's popularity in the country is soaring.

The outlook. Friedersdorf predicts that the President will win from the Senate budget cuts totalling at least what he requested, if not more. Outlook also looks good in the House Budget Committee.

(END)

SJF-RAK

To: LH

From: NSD

April 1, 1981

Following is from a meeting I had today with Amb. Walter Stoessel, No.3 man at State. Stoessel, undersecretary of state for political affairs, is former ambassador to Poland and Bonn. He had long experience, too, in Moscow where I first met him around 1963. Believe items 1 and 2 might make whisper candidates.

1.The administration intends to continue talking with Russians on a low key for the moment. Haig met Amb. Dobrynin this afternoon for a second time. Haig will probably meet Gromyko at the U.N. General Assembly in the fall. "The meetings are cordial enough but they are not agreeing on much."

2.By fall, the U.S., under pressure from the Europeans, will probably resume talks with the Russians on limiting long-range nuclear weapons in Europe. Little likelihood that SALT talks will be resumed before 1982. Administration currently reviewing the SALT bidding and will probably come up with some new approaches. "There are definitely aspects to the SALT treaty which are in our interests," says Stoessel. Alton Frye, an arms advisor to John Anderson, conferred recently with Stoessel on how to adjust the SALT treaty. Frye had an important article on this subject last year in Foreign Policy mag. Stoessel agrees that demanding deep cuts in SALT ceilings would not be a productive move.

3. Poland: Stoessel sees a continuing crisis but no inevitability of naked Soviet intervention. The recent defusing of the Polish crisis may hold the seeds of an new upheaval, however. The Sunday Communist Party meeting ended with a suggestion that a Polish Communist Party Congress

(MORE)

would be called later this year. Liberal forces want to require free election of reps to the Congress. The Russians are very unhappy over that suggestion.

4. China: If the Soviets invade Poland, the Reagan administration may consider selling weapons to Communist China. "It is an option we should probably consider," says Stoessel. However, Stoessel remains very cautious and indicates we might well argue against this course. A furious Soviet reaction could be expected if the U.S. sells arms to China -- part propaganda, part pressure against the West. Berlin could easily become a pressure point again. In times of difficulty, hints come from Moscow about Berlin and its vulnerability despite the Four Power agreement.

5. Berlin: The agreement has basically worked well. However, the Soviets periodically complain the West violates the accord by allowing altogether too much West German contact with West Berlin. Particularly galling to the Soviets are Bundestag committee meetings in Berlin.

6. U.S. Ambassador for Moscow: The search for an ambassador is in low gear. The State Department is thin on candidates, although Stoessel says he thinks Harry Barnes (U.S. Ambassador to Brazil?) and Roger (?) Kirk would be good choices. Stoessel says he knows of "no great White House candidate."

NSD

(END)

emo To: MLS, LT, DR, JG, GP, JWM, SJF, RAK, PA, GEJ

From: AT

Exclusive Interview with medical staff of George Washington University Hospital: Drs. Jack E. Zimmerman, Dr. William Knaus and nurses Maureen McCann and Debbie Augsbach.

Problem in the Recovery Room: The operation was over around 6:30. An hour later, President Reagan was still in the recovery room. While George Washington University Hospital spokesperson Dr. Dennis O'Leary was assuring reporters that the president was in "stable" condition with an "excellent prognosis", the doctors in the recovery room were ^{n't so sure} ~~facing a problem~~. Reagan was on a respirator and tests to monitor the oxygen in his blood were showing that it was taking an excessive amount of oxygen from the machine to keep up to normal levels. Chest x-rays soon confirmed that a lot of blood was obstructing his airways. Around 7:30, Dr. Jack E. Zimmerman in charge of the Intensive Care Unit had gone to the Recovery Room to see why it was taking so long to move the patient. (Press secretary who was a lot sicker was actually more "stable" after surgery and went to the ICU the same night) Dr. Zimmerman examined the president, looked over his chart and studied the x-rays. By 9:00 p.m. the doctors decided they had to remove the blood clots blocking the patient's airways in a procedure called a bronchoscopy. This involves putting a fiberoptic instrument down the endotracheal tube already in place down the president's throat so that the doctors could "see" the obstructing blood clots and suck them out.

(MORE)

But it didn't work. There was a kink in the tube and the instrument couldn't be inserted. The doctors were now faced with a choice: wait and see if the situation worsens and rely on the nurses to suck out the blood with a catheter or resort to more dramatic means, such as surgery to eliminate the blood.

It was at this point that President Reagan wrote: "All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia." He couldn't talk with the tube in his mouth. He was being given morphine for pain. He was lying in the hospital bed with the head of the bed raised up. There was no need to strap him down, says Dr. Zimmerman. "He was in full possession of his faculties." It was during this period he took a pencil and jotted his one-liners down on the back of his medical progress notes.

"It was a high anxiety time," explains Dr. Zimmerman. "The x-ray and oxygen studies were bothersome. He knew we were worried but it was hard to get overwhelmed when you have a patient putting out one-liners. It gave everybody reassurance that the patient was doing all right."

In the end, the doctors decided to take the cautious approach. Nurses Denise Sullivan and Cathy Edmonston took turns sucking out the blood with a catheter until 2 in the morning. His lungs got better and better. At 2 a.m., his chest x-ray showed he was close to normal. He was taken off the respirator. By 3 a.m., the tube was pulled out of his throat. The 6 a.m. chest x-ray was also normal.

The doctors were pleased. The patient wasn't bleeding. His heart rhythm, blood pressure were normal. He needed no blood

(MORE)

transfusions. He was taken off morphine. He was not in alot of pain. When the tube came out of his mouth, he went on a talking jag and put on a show for the nurses.

For Dr. Aaron, the night was long. At midnight, he was back in the operating room, this time with a heart patient who was hemorrhaging. Dr. Wesley Price, the general surgical resident, delivered the bedside care to president Reagan, making sure there was enough potassium in the intravenous fluids, that the chest tube was working properly.

The ICU. By morning, the president was well stabilized and the anxiety of the night before seemed long ago. He was ready to be moved to the Intensive Care Unit and Dr. O'Leery could tell reporter at the 8:30 briefing that the president was in good condition--he just hadn't gotten much sleep the night before.

It had been an unusually busy time in the ICU for the past two weeks. The hospital can take care only 14 patients in the ICU with its specialized care of nursing and space-age equipment. When the rumors first started abut the shootings, everybody knew where the three men were headed. At that moment there was only one free bed.

Over the next five hours, the staff was able to rehsuffle patients and reserve a standard ICU room for the president, his press secretary and the secret service men. It's an old hospital, with cramped rooms and a ward jammed with nurses in yellow uniforms and banks of dials and t.v. screens beeping vital signs of the very sick. Roughly two dozen secret service men and uniformed guards arrived on the scene. Every bed was filled. Doctors and nurses were working over time.

(MORE)

President Reagan arrived at 6:15 Tuesday morning. "He (REagan) looked good. His color was good. He was tired. He was talking about the incident. He portrayed a very confident man," says Dr. William Knaus, ICU physician. "That was infectious."

It was clear that Reagan was now on the way to recovery. In fact, by mid morning, the presiden't personal physician, Dr. Lugge, Dr. Aaron and Dr. Knaus discussed the fact that Reagan was probably not sick enough to stay in the ICU and they decided to transfer him to a private room. It was then that Dr. Lugge decided to keep Reagan at George Washington for the rest of his hospitalization.

Nurse Maureen McCann was on duty when the president arrived in the ICU. "He was still drowsey but he was able to talk," she says. "The thing that impressed me was that he was willing to do anything that would make him get better faster."

Reagan was immediately started on physiotherapy. To do this, he turned over on his stomach and let the nurses clap on his back to vibrate his body and shake the secretions in his lung in order to prevent penumonia. This can be very painful, expecially over a fresh incision. He also had a cracked rib, bruising and some swelling at the site of the incision. It must be done every 4 hours.

Years ago, he told her, he was hospitalized for pneumonia. "He was more than willing to do this," she continues. "I'm sure it was painful for him. He never complained. He said: 'Just tell me what I have to do, I'll do it.'"

He reminisced: "Someone like you saved my life when I had penumonia. She sat by my bedside and kept saying: breathe,

(MORE)

'breathe, breathe,' she said he told her.

Part of the therapy for lung injuries is to cough, again, to bring up the sputum that collects in the chest. Coughing is painful--it involves expanding the lungs and coughing from the abdomen.

Another exercise involves a deep breathing device that forces a person to suck through a straw and push a ping-pong ball to certain levels. On the first try, Reagan reached level 5 whereas most patients start on level 2. Reagan is to use this device every hour.

At 9:15 p.m. Reagan was discharged out of the ICU. All the nurses lined up the hall to say goodbye.

Telling the news. Once he settled into the ICU, President Reagan said he wanted to see a newspaper. Nurse Debbie Augsburg stalled. It was at this point that Dr. Lugge decided that he had to be told about the other shootings. In the Recovery Room, Dr. Lugge decided not to volunteer any information. Dr. Lugge, Mrs. Reagan and his daughter were present to tell him. Reagan wanted to know all the details. He asked if press secretary Jim Brady could move his left or right side. He was glad he was just down the hall. He wanted to know who did the shooting and he was told ``it was a kid from a good family. A nut,`` as Nurse Augsburg describes the scene. After that, he was quiet for about two hours.

Anecdotes-Humor

Reagan finally got a newspaper. He told Augsberg that what he really wanted to read was the comics. Augsberg got the secret service man to go down to the lobby for a Washington Post. He picked up the paper and the only thing he looked at on the front page was the story about finding another body in Atlanta. ``They

(MORE)

hospitalized, now he knew what they had gone through. He joked with the chief surgical resident and sang old ditties with him, saying to the nurse that she was too young to know the song.

He was concerned about when he could go horseback riding. He wanted to throw the ball at the baseball game. He said he had missed an appointment for fund raising.

The family came to visit him Tuesday morning in the ICU for about 45 minutes. Mrs. Reagan told him: "Frank called; he's flying in now. Elizabeth is coming to town..." The Nurses speak well of Mrs. Reagan. They say she was gracious and cooperative, never condescending or bossy.

Official Duties in the ICU

Most of Tuesday was spent resting and learning to exercise. Reagan would read a few memos and doze off. Mrs. Reagan would be sitting with him and he'd doze off. Then he'd wake himself up. He seemed to want to be awake.

He signed the dairy bill. He was concerned about his signature. The IV was still in his arm, he had to write on the bedside table leaf. He made the joke again about what makes people think he so happy that the government is running so well without him.

He also make a couple of important decisions. White House aides came to see him. (Augsburg can't remember exactly who.) It was suggested that Secretary of State Alexander Haig cancel his trip. It was the president who said no; Haig should make the trip, he'd just like to see his schedule. "The world has not stopped just because of this," he reportedly said.

Reagan the patient: By all accounts, President Reagan was a model

(MORE)

patient. He cooperated with all the staff and did what he was told to do. He didn't complain. During the tense moments in the Emergency Room and again in the Recovery Room, it was Reagan's confidence and humor that reassured the physicians. What stands out in the first 24 hours is that every decision of what to do with the president, where he should be moved, who should treat him, how many visitors he should have was a medical decision--never a political one. In the Recovery room, Dr. Benjamin Aaron, who had operated on the president, reportedly told the others: "We're trying very hard to treat this patient like any other patient--otherwise we're going to get into trouble." The surgical resident delivered the bedside care. An intern examined the president in the Recovery Room. One of his fellow patients in the ICU said: "I only wish the president got the same nurses I got." As Intensive Care Unit physician Dr. William Knause puts it: "He was treated the same way as someone who had been shot at Washington circle and brought to the emergency room. The fact that the normal medical system was allowed to work and it worked so well is significant."

(END)

Wash

Press -

Press? You

ought get here on

time

They can do

anythin' else, what.

Don't let them

do it."

STORY:WHISP
MA:80 FMT:

QUEUE:JSL-JSL
HJ:

INT:

OPR:JSL 104/22,11:12

To: LT, DR, SJP, TG

From: JSL

Had a ribald repast last eve with Rick Ahearn, lead White House advance man, and ABC's Jim Wooten, from whom come this grist:

On background, Ahearn says the White House assessment of what went wrong on Monday is ongoing, but he assures me that it has already been concluded there was no breakdown in Secret Service procedure.

First, Hinckley was not in a "press area" as reported. There was a rope there, but it was to hold back the public. Reporters were there, true, but not in what had been designated a holding pen for them. Secondly, Hinckley was, as reported, within 10 feet of Reagan. Ahearn, who was close to the line of fire, says Hinckley was 25 to 30 feet away from the President.

From films of the shooting, it has been concluded that the Secret Service did exactly as trained, responding with remarkable speed, and that the wounded agent, Timothy J. McCarthy, displayed heroism of a rare sort. In 1963, in Dallas, agents, it is true, hurled their bodies above Lyndon Johnson and tried to cover John Kennedy. But they never knew from whence came the shots. The film shows McCarthy turning toward the source and moving to place his body between the gunman and the President, offering his life.

Now, from Wooten: color stills recently obtained by ABC show that if there was a lapse in security, it was by the DC cops. Delahanty, the wounded officer, and second cop both were looking at Reagan when he came out, rather than at the crowd. Also, they happened to be standing in a place that blocked the Secret Service agents view of Hinckley.

To be fair, the cops were not

this assignment because his dog was sick. But get this. Wooten quotes Delahanty

(MORE)

STORY: WHISP

PAGE: 2

as telling his wife that he always wanted to get Presidential guard duty because, "if you're hurt, you get 100 percent disability retirement."

(END)

STORY:MEMO3
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:DML ;04/02,15:33

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, JWM, SJF,
PA, PGH, JH, AT, WLC, LJL

FROM: RAK

RE: White House Medical Update

At a White House briefing this afternoon, Dr. Dennis O'Leary flatly denied published reports that the President was in danger of dying from blood loss or shock when he was brought into George Washington Hospital.

What Reagan probably experienced when he entered the emergency room is vasovagal, according to O'Leary. This condition, caused by a sudden loss of blood, makes a patient feel faint, turn pale, suffer a loss of breath and a momentary drop in blood pressure, making him appear "just awful," but this condition is not a life-threatening problem. "In no sense is that a physiologically threatening situation but the visual effects are quite striking," said O'Leary.

He did not dispute reports that Reagan's eyes rolled backward and his knees buckled. "He went down on one knee as he came into the door of the emergency room." The President's blood pressure was abnormally low when he was taken to the resuscitation bay, but it returned to normal within a few minutes--as is the case with patients suffering vasovagal, O'Leary said.

The doctor also disagreed with reports that Reagan might have died if he had been taken to a hospital farther from

the hotel than GW. ``In my judgment, if for some reason he had not received attention for another 20 or 30 minutes, he still would have been OK.``

The President had been coughing up some blood en route to the hospital and had some blood around his lips when he was brought in. It was not until the attendants stretched him out in the resuscitation bay and cut away his clothes that everyone realized he had been shot.

Rawhide's recovery. ``Mr. Reagan is progressing through a totally normal post-operative course...He's alert...My understanding is that he covered 50 yards in two minutes...He's back on a full diet. He wolfed down his breakfast today.`` This morning at 8:30 Reagan ate: Fresh orange juice, honeydew melon, two soft-boiled eggs, whole wheat toast and honey and decaffeinated coffee.

Adds O'Leary: ``If any important issue came up, I don't have any doubt at all that he would be able to address it.``

Reagan's I-V has been removed, but he still has in place two chest tubes (one to remove fluid from lungs and one to remove air from the chest cavity), and a third tube is resting under his nose to provide oxygen-enriched air when he is lying down. All of this is normal stuff, says O'Leary. The President's painkillers have been reduced substantially. He now is taking only Tylenol number 3, which is about what you would take for a headache.``

The President's systolic blood pressure has remained

(MORE)

between 120-130 and his pulse rate around 70, all very good.

O'Leary is "hopeful" that Reagan will be discharged some time next week, but adds, in response to a question about whether the President can travel to Tijauna in late April: "I don't expect him to be 100 percent normal in three weeks."

The bullet. According to O'Leary, the bullet "entered slightly underneath the left arm pit. It traversed about 3 inches of the chest wall, then ricocheted off the seventh rib into the left lower lobe of the lung, and moved about 3 inches into the lung substance itself." This should clarify our diagram showing where the bullet entered.

Emergency treatment. According to O'Leary, Reagan lost about 1,200 cc (about 2 units) of blood through a tube inserted into his chest when they began surgery. That was about half of the total amount of blood he lost. "There never was a lot of bleeding...He bled steadily but not vigorously," and that was a good sign, according to O'Leary.

Photo. There is growing suspicion among White House regulars that Reagan may not be as chipper as senior aides claim. This is based totally on the fact that the White House still hasn't released a photo of Reagan in his hospital bed. Why else would the White House be reluctant to release a photo, unless the old boy looks bad? Speakes has been promising a photo for a couple of days but none

(MORE)

has materialized. Today he says only that he expects to release one shortly, but not necessarily today or tomorrow.

O'Leary made things a lot easier for the White House today by saying that it is his "medical preference" that the President not be "hassled" by the presence of the White House photographer.

Brady. O'leary threw some cold water on rising expectations that Brady will recover. "Mr. Brady continues to make satisfactory progress. We are a long way from home, though...I think I have to emphasize that and offer a note of caution." Brady's face is badly swollen, making it difficult for him to open his eyes. He is conscious, but unable to carry on a conversation. He has spoken only a few words to his nurses, but he understands when they speak to him. It will take six to 12 months before Brady's prospects for recovery can be fully assessed, says O'Leary.

More one-liners. The President was visited for 10 minutes today by Senators Paul Laxalt and Howard Baker, who reported these quotes from the presidential mouth: "I saw you on TV this morning...I see all the early shows now...I found it hurts to get shot."

(END)

STORY:MEMO5
MA:62 FMT:

QUEUE:CWF-CWF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:CWF ;04/22,17:36

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, JWM, SJF,
PA, PGH, JE, WLC
FROM: RAK
RE: Wirthlin's views

“It’s a mistake to make the claim that this week’s events are going to make it easier to pass the five-point economic plan,” says Reagan pollster Richard Wirthlin in a background conversation by phone. “We’re looking at a unique event that is not very comparable to the start of the Great Society after Kennedy was shot...But this might be some of the very harsh personal criticism. We’re not going to see the President villified in a personal way.”

Nevertheless, Wirthlin sees no negative fallout from the shooting. Reagan “has gained esteem with the American people across the board...The President is stronger politically now than he was before Monday but I don’t necessarily believe that will translate into a sudden surge of recovery on the Hill...The elements of the [economic] program are more the key, and we’ve found support for the tax cut, for example, was growing before the event [Monday].”

This will help the President, says Wirthlin, but he points out that polls he did on Sunday before the shooting showed Reagan with a higher approval rating than he received on Inauguration Day.

Surviving an assassin’s bullet caused about a 10-point

upward "bump" in Reagan's popularity. When pressed, Wirthlin thinks the higher rating--the second honeymoon--might be sustained for 30 days, all other things being equal. But Wirthlin believes the long-term political impact of the shooting cannot be accurately measured so soon after the event. Polls taken 10 days from now will be a better gauge.

He adds: "The most avid readers of published polls are the 435 members of the House and 100 members of the Senate...The economic program is not going to get a free ride...But some of the closer votes may tilt our way." The crucial votes on the economic program, though, will not occur until July or August, by which time "the impact of this is not going to be major."

One other plus for Reagan: "It is the House that is more sensitive to changes in public attitudes and that's where most of the opposition [to Reagan's program] is."

(END)

STORY:WHU5
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF

;04/02,20:26

To: mls lt jf dr lh gp rak jg dcb dxb jwm pa pgh aps wlm
From: sjf

Mistakes by the White House Press Office.

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes hosted a background briefing for magazine reporters Thursday night to defend mistakes by the White House Press Office during the past four days. The briefing apparently was designed to answer questions posed by Time and Newsweek, both of which are doing a story this week on press coverage of the shooting.

As a result of the briefing, everyone learned of some mistakes that previously had gone unnoticed. In other words, the briefing itself was probably a mistake. Here's a down of their biggest bloopers:

* Assistant Press Secretary David Prospero told reporters at the scene immediately after the shooting that he had learned in a telephone call to the White House that the President was "all right." It now turns out that the White House Press Office was entirely unaware of the shooting when Prospero called and he never got to talk to anyone in authority during subsequent calls.

* After Reagan arrived at the hospital, both Speakes and Karna Small told reporters at the White House that Reagan had not been shot. They claim their information came from Mike Deaver, who was unaware of the President's wound although he had gone to the hospital with the motorcade.

* Late in the afternoon, ABC reported that Jim Brady was dead on the basis of information from David Prospero. (CBS

(MORE)

(ed Howard Baker's office as their source.) But Prosperi insists that ABC reporter Bill Greenwood misunderstood him. Speakes adds that the White House Situation Room also received a report through "official channels" that Brady was dead, even before the networks reported it. He assumes it came to the White House from a law enforcement agency.

* At a briefing around 8:30 p.m. Monday, Speakes divulged classified information by discussing the details of national command authority. He says he was unaware that it was classified. He learned about it from Jim Baker.

Speakes says he has been designated by Meese and Baker to run the Press Office in Brady's absence. Speakes is technically the No. 3 person. Karna Small, the No. 2 person, has not yet learned how to conduct a successful briefing. Speakes says he was put in charge while they were still working out of the Situation Room Monday night. Speakes' account: "Meese looked at Baker asking, 'What about a spokesman?' Then he asked, 'Speakes?' and Baker raised his hand."

(END)

April 3, 1981

✓
FROM: SJF - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH,
Al Veerhoff

RE: Ed Meese Speech at the Yale Club

The South Korean government spared the life of Kim Dae Jung as a result of "quiet diplomacy" by the Reagan administration, according to Meese. This is the first time the administration has publicly taken credit for saving Kim. Meese cited it as evidence that Reagan "already has done more for human rights" than most Presidents.

Meese insisted that the administration's "crisis-management" team worked smoothly on Monday despite what he described as "one or two instances that were exaggerated by the news media." He added: "There wasn't one second when it wasn't clear who was in charge."

His explanation of why the crisis-management operation was called into play: No. 1, "We didn't know whether it was a terrorist attack" and No. 2, "We didn't know whether another nation would take advantage of this to launch some sort of attack."

He also defended cabinet government saying: "Cabinet government has worked and is working and I would bet will continue to work as long as Ronald Reagan is President."

(END FILE - ES)

April 3, 1981

FROM: RAK - White House

TO: MLS, LT, JF, BFP, DXB, JWM, GP, DR, JG, DCB, LH, SJF, RAK, PA, PGH, MD

RE: White House Update

President Reagan continues to experience a "moderate temperature elevation," but Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes declines to specify how high the President's fever is.

In a briefing this afternoon, Speakes also declined to rule out the possibility ^{THAT} of an infection is causing the elevated temperature. The statement issued by the White House stressed that the ^Atemperature Reagan is running is "commonplace" for patients recovering from surgery of this nature.

Poland. Speakes said there has been a "intensification" of Warsaw Pact military activity in Poland. "Military activity is continuing at a high level...the Soviets remain in a situation to intervene promptly, but we have no evidence that they intend to," Speakes said. Reagan was to meet later this afternoon at the hospital with Secretary of State Haig and Secretary of Defense Weinberger to discuss the upcoming trips of the two cabinet secretaries. The President will be sending with Haig letters to the Heads of State of Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, expressing his views on the Middle East situation. The White House declined to be more specific about the content of the letters.

Photographs. The White House expects to release black and

Page - 2

white prints of the President in his hospital room at about
3:30 this afternoon. Color photos will be available around
5 p.m.

(END FILE - JNM)

STORY: BULLET
MA: 70 FMT:

QUEUE: TG-TG

MSG:

HJ:

INI:

OPR: TG

; 04/03, 17:09

SJF

April 3, 1981

MLS LT DR GP WLC ✓ SJF AT JG AOK from TG

Reagan lucky his bullet didn't explode...

At a press briefing this afternoon, the FBI confirmed that bullets used in the Reagan shooting were so-called Devastator bullets designed to explode on impact. The blast isn't designed to kill or injure in and of itself; rather, the idea is that the explosion fragments the bullet, causing more damage to the body and making it less likely that the bullet will merely pass through...

Apparently, the only one of the bullets fired Monday that exploded on impact to a body (as opposed to some other object) was Brady's. The BI doesn't know why the bullet that hit Reagan didn't explode. Best guess is that it may have exploded on hitting the limo, then ricocheted to Reagan. It's also possible that the bullet just failed to explode for some other reason, as was the case with McCarthy and Delahanty. Why? In brief, the bullet must be going at high speed and hit straight on (not at an angle) to explode... So Reagan could have been injured much more seriously or killed had the bullet worked as intended.

That's the essence, for our story this week. Several other angles were covered, briefly--

* It's possible that traces of a substance called lead azide, designed to make the bullet explode, may remain within Reagan's body.

BI won't comment on possible medical complications, except to say that the compound is ``not healthy...but not toxic enough to cause

(MORE)

death, either." Reagan's doctors are looking into the situation.

* This bullet was made for 1<1/2> years by a Georgia firm, and the FBI, despite its big firearms collection, had no idea it existed until this incident.

* Another inter-agency snafu may be developing. One reporter says the Treasury's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division got a hold of a Devastator specimen on Monday. The FBI didn't get one for analysis until yesterday afternoon.

* Decision to operate on Officer Delahanty wasn't made by FBI, but by Delahanty and his doctors. Fear was that some kinds of treatment (sonar?, microwave?) or shock to his body could have caused bullet to explode, and it was in a place where fragmentation could be dangerous.

* It was possible, but unlikely, that the bullet could have exploded on Reagan while it was being removed on Monday. (Doctors, of course, were unaware at the time of its composition). FBI says it would have taken very high heat or some kind of unusual shock to set it off, however.

* FBI wouldn't answer questions about other matters, such as why it didn't tell Secret Service about Hinckley's Nashville arrest. In fact, Hinckley wasn't discussed at all because his case is pending.

(END)

STORY:WHU1
MA:60 FMT:

QUEUE:SJF-SJF
HJ:

MSG:
INI:

OPR:SJF

;04/06,18:17

_To: mls lt jf dr lh gp fwf pms rak jg at dcb dxb jwm tjf

pa pgh

From: sjf

Re Auto Imports and other matters.

The Reagan administration has abandoned efforts to convince the Japanese to voluntarily restrict auto imports. Vice President George Bush declared Monday that Reagan is not asking the Japanese to restrict their auto shipments into the U.S., nor would he support any such legislation.

"The President is not pressing for numbers," says Bush. "Nor would he be inclined to restrict imports." Instead of trying to limit imports into the United States, Bush said, this administration will be seeking access to markets now closed to U.S. producers.

Just two weeks ago, top administration officials were telling a different story at the White House. At that time, Reagan's advisers said they hoped the Japanese would agree to voluntarily restrict imports. They also were refusing to express an opinion on any legislative proposals.

The U.S. is sending a delegation to Japan to explain the regulatory changes that were unveiled on Monday. Bush emphasized that the delegation has not been empowered to negotiate imports or anything else with the Japanese.

The potential cost of an average car will be reduced by about \$150.00 as a result of the regulatory changes announced Monday, according to administration officials.

The administration estimated of how much money will be

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saved by each change in regulation. Their estimates of consumer savings included foreign car purchases.

I question whether these regulatory changes will significantly alter the competitive advantage now enjoyed by the Japanese. It seems that foreign manufacturers will benefit almost as much as domestic producers.

Other auto-related points of interest:

* Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis rejects as "grossly overstated" insurance company estimates that 600 people will die if passive restraint regulations are delayed. Lewis estimates there will be 10 to 50 additional deaths, which he says could be eliminated if everybody used the seatbelts already in their cars.

* OMB's Jim Miller acknowledges that many of these changes already were proposed by President Carter. The difference as he sees it: "We're quite serious in achieving this."

* Although the auto companies did not get every regulatory change they requested, none of their proposals have yet been "turned down flat."

Poland. "We have no way of knowing what the Soviets' intentions are (in Poland)," says Larry Speakes. "It is clear that they are prepared to intervene if they decide to do so." How would the United States respond? Speakes' answer: "Military sales and our aid to China policy is under review. It would be hard for me to imagine us moving ahead with arms control talks in the event of unilateral intervention into an independent country."

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Travel Plans. Bush will not take Reagan's place in Cincinnati on the opening day of baseball season. Speakes says it was decided that Bush should not be away from the White House on Wednesday. Although planning continues for Reagan's trip to Mexico in late April, there has yet been no "final decision" whether the President will be capable of traveling by that time.

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Herewith are the results of separate interviews Tuesday with James A. Baker and Michael Deaver:

Despite the appearance of business-as-usual at the White House, Baker and Deaver acknowledge that many important matters have been postponed while the President recovers.

"We are delaying anything that can be postponed," says Baker. "Obviously a lot of things on the schedule are being postponed. There is serious question whether he is going to be able to make the trip to Mexico. Speeches are being postponed. Decisions are being postponed. He is being briefed on national security matters. He's signing legislation that has to be signed. He's signing nominations that have to be signed. But that's about it."

Deaver estimates the President is doing about three hours work a day in the hospital, including reading and meetings with staff. That's not bad when you consider Deaver's estimate that Reagan is awake no more than six hours a day--three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon.

"He's been doing a lot of sleeping," says Deaver.

Baker says the President has okayed about 10 or 12 nominations in the hospital. (None of them have been announced yet.) On Monday, he adds, the President signed "a classified matter--a supplemental budget request."

"We've given him only the papers that he absolutely had to sign," says Deaver. "I've played it day-by-day. I've

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gone over there with a whole folder of papers. On the days he has not been feeling well, I've gone over them quickly and given him only the ones I knew he had to have. Somedays, I've given him the whole folder."

Baker tells a similar story. On Monday, he says, he took a one-page "decision memo" to the hospital for Reagan. The memo from the Cabinet council on natural resources dealt with the leasing of the outer continental shelf. But when Baker saw that the President was feverish, he decided the memo could wait for a "couple of days." Reagan's national security briefing also has been shortened on at least one occasion because he was feeling so lousy.

Some "pro-forma" decisions are being made by staff that the President normally makes, according to Baker. For example, the letters that Secretary of State Alexander Haig carried to foreign leaders this week were never seen by the President. Reagan agreed to let the National Security Council to review them. Normally, Baker says, the President reviews and edits letters going to heads of state.

Some things are easy to postpone. "You find in something like this that there are a lot of things that you do during the day just because of custom," says Deaver. "There are a lot of things the President does just because people like me get tired of saying no."

But Baker says there is a limit on the tasks that Reagan's advisers can perform for him. "The things that are presidential decisions remain presidential decisions,"

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says Baker. "We can't reclassify those things." As a result, Baker and Deaver say there will be a huge backlog of work awaiting Reagan when he returns to the Oval Office.

The President's injury also has increased the workload for Baker, Deaver and Meese, according to Baker. "There's more to do. It's a little harder to operate with the President four blocks away."

Hospital Release. Baker says there is a "reasonably good chance" the President will be out of the hospital "by the weekend." Deaver adds that it might lapse into next week. Says Baker, "They are not going to let him out of there until everything is in apple-pie order."

Reagan clearly is anxious to get out. "He'd give anything to be back in the White House," says Baker. "He'll get better faster in the White House," says Deaver.

At first, Reagan's aides underestimated how long the he would be in the hospital. "Before the fever," Baker says, "we thought maybe it would be Monday (April 6).

Deaver says the fever left Reagan feeling "punk." He says the President got "impatient" last week "when they had to go in and take something out of him." He did not elaborate. He says the President is "getting tired of people sticking things down his throat."

Recovery Period. Both Deaver and Baker expect Reagan will recuperate in the White House, not in California. "One of the problems about going back to the ranch is that he'd want to chop wood and obviously he can't do that," says

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Deaver. Baker predicts the President will catch up on his reading during his convalescence and make "abbreviated" visits to the Oval Office.

Vice President's Role. Vice President Bush has assumed a bigger role than ceremonial duties. He's also chairing all White House meetings, including a morning session with Meese, Baker, Deaver. "He's a full substitute now for the President," says Baker. "He's just not making the decisions." But Baker rejects the idea that Bush will retain these functions. "The Vice President has got a full plate as it is," he says.

The 25th Amendment. Baker says they were prepared to invoke the 25th Amendment if Reagan had come out of surgery in worse shape. "That's why we went to the hospital," he says. "We discussed it over there. We considered it during the course of the surgery. Had there been some other result-- had it been obvious that there would be some extended period of disability, then we would have seriously considered it."

Probation for Haig. Baker told at least one reporter off the record last week that he expected Haig no longer be Secretary of State in six months. Now, it appears that Haig is getting probation. Asked the same question Tuesday, Baker replied that it is a "tough one" because it's "not my decision." But he added: "In my view, he will be."

Baker says Reagan obviously knows about the latest Haig problem because the President has been reading the

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newspapers. But he says the matter has not been discussed with the President as far as he knows.

Meese-Baker feud. Baker volunteers that the Wall Street Journal was wrong when it predicted a Meese-Baker feud. Yet he admits problems created by the President's hospitalization provide a climate for disagreement. That's why he and Meese are trying so hard to avoid trouble. He says he and Meese have become "practically interchangeable" in meetings lately.

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