

The Weather

Today: Sunny. High around 60, low in 50s.
Tomorrow: Cloudy, chance of showers. High around 80.
Local Data: Page A-2.

131st Year, No. 90

Richmond, Virginia

Virginia's
State
Newspaper

25 Cents

Tuesday, March 31, 1981

Assassination Try Made on Reagan; Brady Is Most Critically Wounded



President Reagan Waves to Crowd Outside Hotel Where He Spoke to Union Members....



Seconds Later Secret Service Men Push Wounded President Into Presidential Limousine

President Stable Following Surgery

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Reagan was shot in the chest in an assassination attempt yesterday. His press secretary, James Brady, was critically wounded. Doctors removed a bullet from Reagan's left lung and said the outlook was excellent.

The gunman, identified as John W. Hinckley Jr., 25, of Evergreen, Colo., was tackled by Secret Service agents and arrested. His motives were not known.

A Secret Service agent and a Washington policeman were seriously wounded.

"Reagan's fate hangs in any serious doubt," said Dr. Dennis O'Leary, head of clinical surgery at George Washington University after a team of doctors operated on the president for two hours. He described removing the bullet as a relatively simple procedure.

Dr. O'Leary said the bullet entered Reagan's left chest, hit a rib and ricocheted into his left lung, which collapsed.

The doctor said the bullet came within several inches of Reagan's heart but was not really near any vital organ.

"He is in stable condition and we are continuing the surgery," Dr. O'Leary said.

He said he did not know how long Reagan would be in the hospital.

Dr. O'Leary told reporters during surgery on Brady that a bullet had "actually passed through Brady's brain."

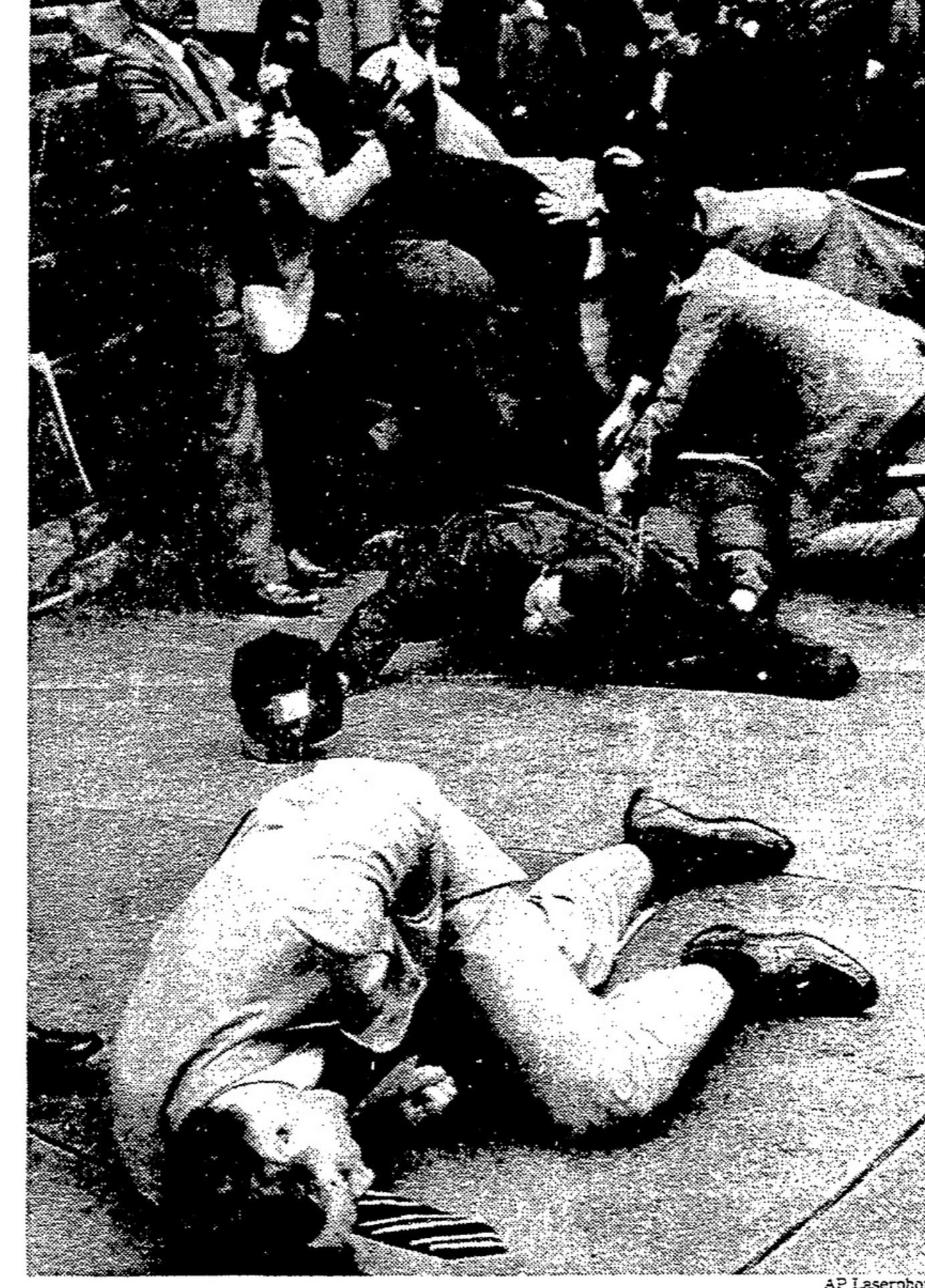
AP Laserphoto Via CBS-TV News Monitor
Agents Wrestle With Suspect in Shooting

Shortly thereafter, deputy press secretary Larry Speakes told reporters that report was wrong.

"It is not true," he said. "He is in serious condition."

Earlier, the three television networks had quoted White House official David Prospect as saying Brady was dead.

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Three Wounded With President Lie on Street Outside Hotel

Suspect Is Described as Troubled



John W. Hinckley Jr.

From Wire Dispatches

John W. Hinckley Jr., 25, arrested yesterday on an charge of attempted murder, is a man with long-standing psychological problems who rambled from city to city trying new jobs. Guns had gotten him into trouble once before, in Nashville, Tenn.

A former classmate said Hinckley was "not a flamboyant type" when they attended a suburban Dallas high school and "certainly not the type" to shoot a president.

However, in Chicago, the president-elect of the National Socialist Party of America said Hinckley was expelled from the party more than a year ago.

Michael C. Allen said Hinckley was expelled in November 1979 because he "wanted to shoot people" but didn't "pull the trigger." Allen said Hinckley was "a nut."

Allen said Hinckley joined the Nazi party in 1978 and that they first met during a Nazi march in St. Louis on

March 12, 1978.

"I recognized his name when I first heard of him," Allen said.

But little else was known about Hinckley's activities in the years after high school, except for sporadic attendance at Texas Tech University.

A job application he filed with a Denver firm last year showed that between June 1976 and August 1978 Hinckley had worked as a salesperson for a pawnshop in Denver and a bookkeeper in Dallas.

His father, Denver oilman J.W. "Jack" Hinckley, had done volunteer work in Africa for the California-based Christian service group known as World Vision.

The group's president, Stan Mooneyham, said yesterday that Hinckley had been a "good" Vision staff member that his son had long-standing psychological problems that were causing him "great anxiety."

Roger Young, an FBI spokesman in Washington, said the weapon used to shoot the president and three others was a .22-caliber "Saturday night special" bought at a Dallas gun shop.

Young said there had been no problem with the suspect's coherence when he was questioned.

The operator of a Denver pawnshop said a man identifying himself as John W. Hinckley Jr. of suburban Lakewood pawned a guitar and a typewriter March 11 and said he was going out of town.

"The young man was shabbily dressed and looked like a man down on his luck," said Brent Morris, the clerk at G.I. Joe's Pawn Shop.

In Evergreen, Colo., attorney Jim Robinson said in a statement from the suspect's parents that young Hinckley has been under recent psychiatric care.

"His evaluation has been negative to the seriousness of his condition," the statement said. Robinson added that Hinckley's parents were "heartbroken."

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Oscar Ceremony Delayed a Day

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has delayed the annual Oscar presentations because of the shooting of President Reagan, who had been scheduled to open the ceremony last night with a videotaped speech.

The ceremony was put off for 24 hours until tonight, ABC-TV announced.

It was the third time the ceremony had been postponed.

It was delayed in 1983 for a week

because of flooding and for two days in 1968 because of the assassination of black civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Related story, Page B-8

Polish Strike Is Called Off

From Wire Dispatches

Polish labor leaders called off yesterday a general strike threatened for today.

The decision came after nearly seven hours of talks between Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, and Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski. At issue were several union demands, especially punishment of those responsible for injuring three union members March 19 in

police clashes in Warsaw.

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police clashes in Warsaw.

The rate last paid by taxpayers was \$1.51. City Manager Manuel Deese backed the higher rate saying the city needed the money to balance the budget. Last year he based his computation for the 1980-81 budget on the rate adopted last night.

A move by council's minority

means \$350,000 for the city. Council member William J. Leidinger said city officials told him a \$3.2 million deficit forecast for the fiscal year that ends June 30 has diminished in recent weeks to a surplus that could rise to more than \$1 million in the next three months.

The city had a hiring freeze from early February and other cost-cutting actions have been taken to bring the budget into balance.

Last night, Council member Aubrey H. Thompson charged that the vote on the tax, which came about 1:30 a.m., was delayed in order to reduce public opposition.

A \$1.50 tax rate proposal, submitted earlier by the minority, was struck from the agenda in order to focus attention on the \$1.53 rate, which the minority supported more strongly. Each penny of the property tax rate

The Inside Story

Three Sections 35 Pages

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The strike was left to the union's 55-member national coordinating commission, which was expected to go along at a meeting today.

Walesa said he was satisfied with the 70 percent of the agreement, but the commission did not get all it wanted, including registration of an independent union of farmers.

The agreement said special

Continued on Page 1, Col. 1

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