

The Weather

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

131st Year, No. 90

Richmond, Virginia

Tuesday, March 31, 1981

**

Virginia's
State
Newspaper

25 Cents

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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 Warnock Hinckley, 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 also seriously wounded.

Reagan "at no time was in any serious danger," 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 a 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 awake" following 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."



Agents Wrestle With Suspect in Shooting

Asked if Brady would suffer permanent brain damage, he said, "That problem is likely."

After the operation, however, doctors said the outlook was better for Brady.

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

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

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

When asked if Reagan were able to carry out his duties as president, Dr. O'Leary replied: *Continued on Page 2, Col. 4*

Suspect Is Described as Troubled



John W. Hinckley Jr.

From Wire Dispatches
John Warnock Hinckley Jr., 25, arrested yesterday in an attempt on the life of President Reagan, is a man with longstanding 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 and blow things up." Allen described Hinckley as "a nut." Allen said Hinckley joined the Nazi-style party in 1978 and that they first met during a neo-Nazi march in St. Louis on

March 12, 1978.

"I recognized his name when I first heard it," 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 salesman in Hollywood, a bartender 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 told World Vision staff members that his son had longstanding 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 did not alert anyone to the seriousness of his condition," the statement said. Robinson added that Hinckley's parents were "heartbroken."

Continued on Page 2, Col. 4

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

Bydgoszcz.

The government agreed to suspend those responsible for the beating, national television said.

"Common sense and moderation have won," Walesa said.

Rakowski had warned that a strike could be catastrophic and bring the nation to edge of a precipice. Warsaw Pact maneuvers have been in progress in and around Poland

and reportedly had been extended because of the situation.

Polish, Soviet and East German troops simulated opposing a landing along the Baltic coast, the East German news agency ADN said.

"Tomorrow we go to work," Andrzej Gwiazda, second in command of Solidarity's estimated 10 million members, said.

A formal decision calling off

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 "70 percent of the agreement," but that the union did not get all it wanted, including registration of an independent union of farmers.

The agreement said special

Continued on Page 4, Col. 1

Oscar Ceremony Delayed a Day

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences postponed 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.

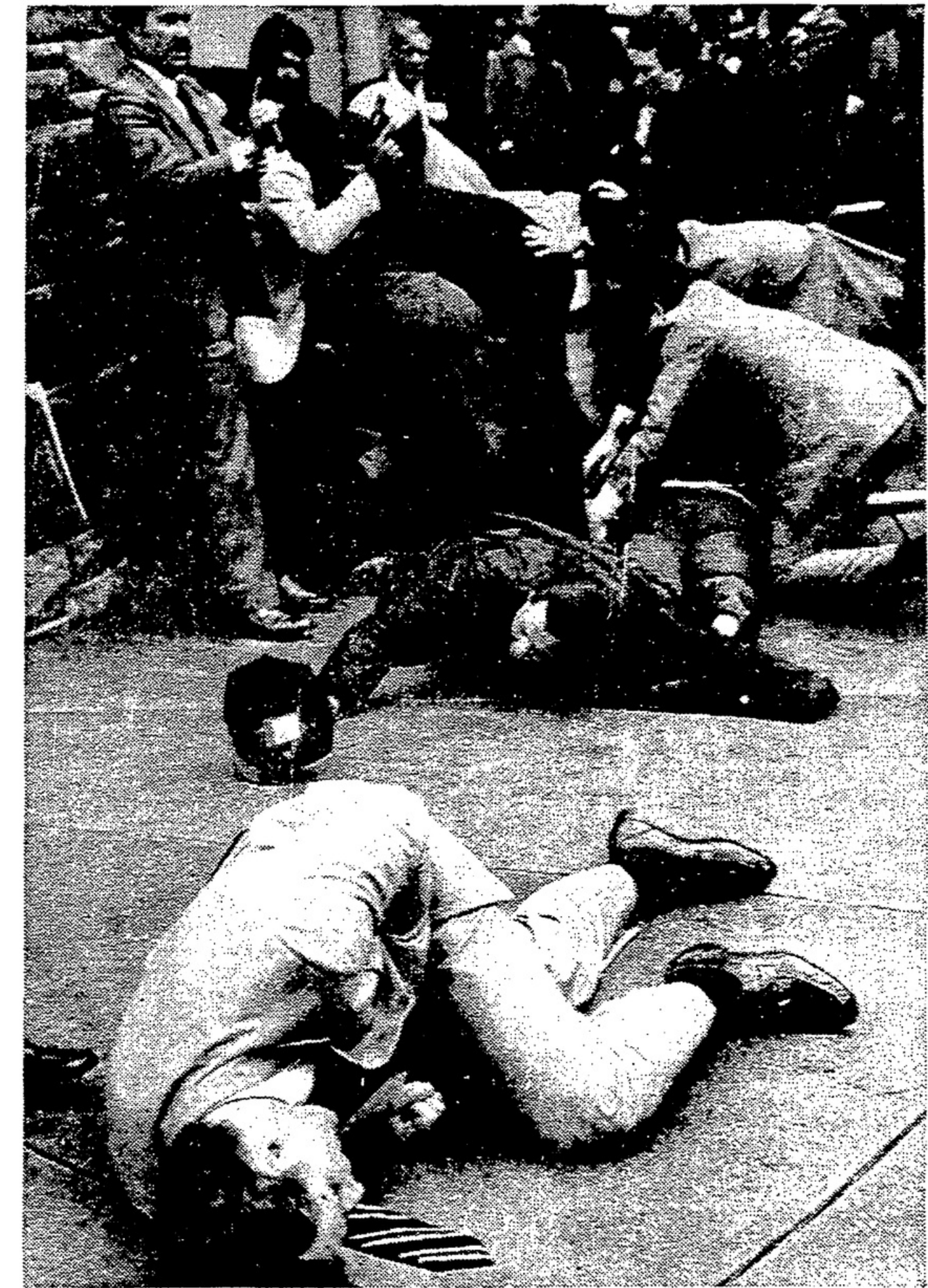
The ceremony was put off for 24 hours until tonight, ABC-TV announced.

It was the third time the ceremony had been postponed. It was delayed in 1938 for a week because of flooding and for two days in 1938 because of the assassination of black civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Related story, Page B-8

Panel Alters 4 Senate Districts

By Shelley Rolfe
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer
The Senate Privileges and Elections Committee made major changes in four projected Shenandoah Valley and Charlottesville area districts yesterday in a move that committee Republicans charged had political motivations.

"An accommodation for Tom

Three Wounded With President Lie on Street Outside Hotel

Michie," said Senate Minority Leader William A. Trubian, R-Shenandoah, who was drawing partisan battle lines on the first day of a General Assembly special session that will confront the nettlesome question of congressional and legislative redistricting.

Trubian was speaking of Sen. Thomas J. Michie Jr., D-

Charlottesville, who set in motion the revisions to a Senate redistricting plan that the Privileges and Elections Committee gave preliminary approval to last week.

The changes restore Democratic Nelson County to Michie's district and remove pockets of Republican strength that had been assigned to it in

the tentative plan. Looking at that plan, some of Michie's Senate colleagues had privately questioned whether he could win re-election.

To make redrawing of Michie's district possible, the committee decided, in part, to divide Rockingham County between Sens. Frank W. Nolen, *Continued on Page 7, Col. 4*

Council Votes \$1.58 Rate

By Dan Moreau
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer
Splitting along factional lines City Council early this morning raised the tax rate to \$1.58 per \$100 assessed value.

Related stories, Pages B-1, B-3

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

faction to adopt a \$1.53 tax rate failed, again along factional lines and amid the feuding that characterizes many council meetings.

A state-mandated \$1.41 rate was rejected. Under state law taxes must be rolled back in order to compensate for rising assessments. But that roll back can be avoided if council conducts a public hearing, which it did.

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

means \$350,000 for the city.

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

The city has had a hiring freeze since 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.

The Inside Story

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