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The White House NEWS SUMMARY

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1981, -- 6 a.m. edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL

"Reagan Wounded by Assassin's Bullet; Prognosis Is 'Excellent'; 3 Others Shot"
In a six-column banner story, David S. Broder, covers the attempt on the President. (Washington Post)

"Senate, Stunned by News, Halts Budget Action"
In the midst of debate, the Senate broke off action on President's proposed budget cuts. (Washington Post)

"The Morbid Echo"
Front-page commentary on assassination attempts. (Washington Post)

"Shifts in Milk, Peanut Price Supports Porposed in Administration's Farm Bill"
Fundamental changes in milk and peanut-support programs. (Washington Post)

INTERNATIONAL

"Poles Reach Accord; Union Suspends General Strike" -- Lech Walesa says he is 70 percent satisfied with the agreement, yet cautions he cannot guarantee union executive body will accept proposed settlement. (Washington Post)

From Reuters News Service, World Reaction to Shooting.

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

All three networks (ABC/CBS/NBC) covered the assassination attempt on President Reagan's life. No other story except for the possible agreement in Poland was played.

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REAGAN WOUNDED BY ASSASSIN'S BULLET; PROGNOSIS IS 'EXCELLENT: 3 OTHERS SHOT

In a six-column front-page banner headline with picture, David S. Broder reported the scenes at the Washington Hilton Hotel as they unfolded March 30, 1981. Broder reports: President Reagan survived an assassination attempt Monday when a revolver-wielding gunman waiting among reporters and photographers on the sidewalk outside the Hilton Hotel fired a bullet into his chest. Broder also reports Jim Brady, who was five feet from the President and no further from the assailant, was the most gravely injured person. He notes television networks reported incorrectly in late afternoon Brady had died, but hospital officials said Monday night the 40-year-old Brady was in surgery and "fighting for his life." Broder points out the first report from Karna Small was Reagan had not been hit but might have been injured slightly as he was pushed into his limousine. It was not until 3:18 p.m. that Frank Ursomarso, stood on a secretary's chair in the briefing room and told a crowd of reporters, "I'm confirming the President was shot." Later in the afternoon, all three television networks reported Brady's death--only to have that report contradicted by Brady's deputy, Larry Speakes. (David S. Broder, Washington Post, 3/31, A1)

SENATE, STUNNED BY NEWS, HALTS BUDGET ACTION

The Senate, its members standing by in stunned silence, broke off action on Reagan's proposed budget cuts Monday after Majority Leader Baker reported the President had been shot. The Senate was in the midst of debate on Bradley's amendment to the budget when word came over radios and wire service news tickers an attempt had been made on the President's life. (Helen Dewar, Washington Post 3/31, A4)

THE MORBID ECHO

Haynes Johnson in a front-page commentary with picture, points out there is no way to escape this replaying of an old national horror. He recalls we have all been through this before, people huddled before TV sets forced to think the unthinkable. Remembering the Kennedy brothers, Martin Luther King Jr, Malcom X, George Wallace and the two attempts on Gerald Ford's life, Johnson points out violence has struck down leaders regardless of ideology or race. The violence that has taken so many American leaders has left a collective legacy of unfulfilled political promises. And among countless Americans it has created a haunting form of morbid introspection, of hopes dashed, of wondering what might have been, as they have seen their leaders struck down again and again. Johnson asks: Just how much more of this tearing at the fabric of the nation can America endure without fundamentally changing the character of national life? Johnson ends his commentary this way: The hope is Reagan's sense of American good humor in the face of adversity, the celebration of the survivor, will be what is most remembered about the events of March 30, 1981. But it won't begin to answer why the violence occurs--or what to do about it. (Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, 3/31, A1)

SHIFTS IN MILK, PEANUT PRICE SUPPORTS PROPOSED IN ADMINISTRATION'S FARM BILL

Fundamental changes in the milk and peanut-support programs, an end to the target-price program that supplements farmers' incomes, and slight increases in grain price supports are features of the 1981 general farm bill the Administration was scheduled to announce today. According to sources, however, the Administration did not intend to send a formal bill to Congress for some days, in an

apparent effort to avoid entanglement with the committees over line-by-line details. On another front Monday, reacting to Reagan's decision to continue the embargo on grain to the Soviet Union, the American Agriculture Movement announced a call for a voluntary farmers' embargo to stop delivery of agricultural products. (Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, 3/31, A5)

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EDITORIAL

SHOOTING -- "Certainly the S.S. precautions and the security generally of the President will need to be reexamined in relation to this terrible event. And it is surely possible some fault lay in the character of those protections, that things will need to be tightened up. But it is also true and very important to remember there is a point beyond which these protections cannot go...Has everything been done that must be done to limit the opportunities as much as possible? We will not believe it has been until those damnable firearms have been put out of the reach of every criminal and potential criminal who wants one--to whom they are accessible now...The caption on this dreadful picture is not that Americans as a nation or a people are violent or weak, but that some among us are--and are armed. (Washington Post, 3/31)

INTERNATIONAL

POLES REACH ACCORD; UNION SUSPENDS GENERAL STRIKE

The Solidarity union movement suspended a potentially catastrophic general strike call Monday after marathon talks with the Communist government produced tentative agreement on major issues one hour before a union deadline was to expire. "I am 70 percent satisfied with the agreement," Solidarity leader Walesa said. Walesa cautioned, however, he can not guarantee the union's decision-making executive body will accept the proposed settlement. (Brian Mooney, Washington Post, 3/31, A1)

U.S. WARNS OF ECONOMIC AID CUTOFF IF POLAND SUPPRESSES SOLIDARITY

The Reagan Administration warned the Polish government Monday that internal "suppression" of the independent labor movement in that country would foreclose any further U.S. economic aid. Concerning the reason for the U.S. position, Brady said, "It's our money and it's an internal decision on what we do economically...What is closer to our nation than our own money?" U.S. sources said Germany is taking the lead in seeking to put together a new package of emergency aid to assist Poland between now and midsummer. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, 3/31, A16)

NETWORK NEWS COVERAGE - - MARCH 30, 1981

The following is a chronological listing of coverage by ABC-TV
Times are approximate; of necessity, description of coverage is abbreviated...

ABC went on the air with the news of the attempted assassination at 2:34 p.m. for five minutes with their first report; came back on at 2:42 p.m. to 2:52 p.m. and returned at 2:59 p.m., remaining on the air until 8:30 p.m.

Within 10-15 minutes they had videotape of the attempt...commentary by Frank Reynolds followed...information originally reported that James Brady and two officers were shot but the President was not. Later they reported that the President was on the way to George Washington U. Hospital but was not hit. They discussed the VP's being on a trip...

At approximately 3:43 they covered a statement by Lyn Nofziger at the hospital stating Reagan had been shot (taped)...Dave Gergen made a live statement from the White House confirming the facts.

Reporter Bill Greenwood reported from WH; Sam Donaldson from GWU. Reporter Brit Hume reported on reaction on Capitol Hill.

Still photos and slow-motion tape of the event shown.

Around 4 p.m. ABC reported that Jim Brady was in critical condition and shortly after announced the President was being operated on. Eyewitnesses gave accounts of the shooting at the hotel.

At approximately 4:11, ABC identified the suspect as John Hinckley, Jr.

Larry Speakes briefed at WH approx 4:18. Coverage continued with a report from KBTB in Colorado with background on the suspect.

At 5:13, Frank Reynolds announced that Jim Brady was dead, but a conflicting report came about 3 minutes later; approx. 4 minutes later Speakes briefed that the report on the death of Jim Brady was in error. Reports continued on the condition of the President, Brady and the other victims. Michael Reagan was interviewed at home. ABC Cameraman Hank Brown was interviewed as an eyewitness.

ABC did not do the regularly-scheduled World News Tonight but did cover short reports from Bangkok and Poland.

Ted Koppel summarized the situation at hospital reporting that President is in stable condition, Brady remains critical.

VP Bush is returning but there is a question as to whether he will return due to reports the President hadn't been shot but after report of wounds, he flew back immediately. Repeat of tape of assassination attempt.

Reagan will be in surgery until 7 p.m., a total of three hours.

ABC Dallas affiliate reports Hinckley bought two revolvers in Dallas back before convention, but his handgun was purchased more recently by mail order.

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Another update...President is expected to be in surgery for several more minutes; prognosis for Brady not good...few people survive such wounds. Earlier reports that Brady is dead are not true, repeat not true.

Susan King at WH reviews Speakes statement that President is o.k. and Brady is alive. Adds that most staff returned to situation room. No cabinet meeting, but in the event anything further happens they are ready. Sec. Haig spoke earlier and said he is in charge. Trying not to talk too early because details unclear, and do not want to give out information too early. WH Press office remains very calm. All waiting for the President to get out of operation.

ABC reviews previous assassination attempts.

Neil Reagan, President's brother, is interviewed.

Reynolds reports Reagan is still in surgery but the operation is successful; President in good condition...information unofficial from Laxalt to Sen. Baker to ABC.

Bush returns.

Barrie Dunsmore reports that Haig gathered Secretaries quickly and says he is in control until the President returns, if something were to happen Haig would check with President quickly, but VP is still in charge and then the Speaker of the House and then Haig.

Reynolds says exploratory surgery concentrating on abdominal area. Rumor that President had undergone open heart surgery are untrue and stem from fact that President had open-chest surgery.

Sam Donaldson in Press Room at hospital. All reports positive. President is in stable and guarded condition. Lyn Nofziger has been briefing regularly.

Reynolds...preparations being made for Mrs. Reagan to spend night at hospital. Bush will be at hospital until President is out of surgery. President went into surgery at 3:45 p.m., three hours ago, and all looks well. Doctor says President should be o.k. in 7-10 days and President's age is not a factor. Repeats that Reagan walked into hospital and cracked jokes.

George Strait was with Bush on flight back from Texas, reviews chronology of situation...sudden rush of secret service agents. Reporting from Andrews AFB, pilot says plane has never flown faster than it did en route to Washington.

VP went from WH to Hospital. Bush didn't talk to reporters, sat quietly in his seat, thinking about the future. Congressmen with Bush report that Bush was calm and relaxed.

Reynolds clears up point, saying Bush is at WH, not at hospital.

Donaldson and Sarafin, expecting Nofziger and surgeon soon. Sarafin says they did exploratory surgery; bullet hit lower left lung, but surgery went well. Brady's condition -- all we have is confusion. Brady on maximum support unit.

Review quips and quotes from Reagan and Sarafin concludes these are the signs of a man apparently holding his own.

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Reynolds talks of whether the President was wearing a bullet-proof vest and concludes there is no way of knowing. Narrates slow motion tape. John Warnock Hinckley will be arraigned this evening. Agent is in good condition. Policeman John Dillahanty is not in good condition; agent Timothy McCarthy is in good condition. Hinckley had been arrested once before; bought two handguns for \$47 each last October and one of those handguns may have been used.

Ted Koppel questions why a small bullet is so dangerous and is told that a low mass low velocity bullet bounces around and causes damage.

FR and TK apologize for same old reports but eager to keep broadcasting as people come home from work and hear story for the first time, and there are still developments.

Hinckley arraigned under federal officials assassination law; a fairly new law in D.C.

Bob Hope talks about his trip during campaign with Reagan and talks about how FBI counseled the President to wear flak jackets. Koppel sort of concludes that Reagan must have been wearing the jacket, but Reynolds corrects him and they review the situation. Surgery takes a long time because it is exploratory.

Bush is at White House, but great secrecy surrounds his arrival and security agents keep reporters away from VP. Security has never been so tight, according to one reporter. In situation room, Bush assumes control of crisis management team, and closely watching the reactions of people around the world; and whether anybody will take advantage of the power vacuum.

Donaldson recreates the tragic scene. Surgeons say surgery is complete; bullet did not fragment and is removed. Dr. Benjamin Aaron was lead surgeon. Reporters shout as doctors privately brief somebody off camera.

Peter Jennings says leaders of the world are shocked. Chancellor Schmidt sends condolences. Tass gives scant attention; Moscow radio ignores it. Thatcher Press Secretary is interviewed and says Thatcher reacted with shock. Particularly grieved by Brady's condition who had just been a gracious and generous host. No problems with Western alliance; security matters not changed.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. Nofziger briefs at hospital...says President is out of surgery and in good condition. Dr. Dennis O'Leary briefs on operation and condition of President and secret service agent. Traces bullet trajectory, concluding bullet entered lung; bullet was removed; prognosis excellent. Recovery time is difficult to say but President is clear of head and can make decisions tomorrow. Bullet was distorted as it struck seventh rib. No involvement of aorta. Responds to reporter's questions: McCarthy doing extremely well. Brady still in surgery; condition critical. Estimates Reagan will stay in hospital two weeks. Reagan required blood transfusion. Brady shot in side of forehead; bullet passed through his brain and he has brain injury. Dr. Aaron, associate professor of surgery, performed surgery on Reagan. No abdominal bleeding with President. Doubtful that lung will collapse. Other complications doubtful. Emphasizes that President is physiologically very young. Before surgery, President asks doctors about being Republicans. Dr. said everyone was a Republican today. All doctors feel President can make decisions tomorrow.

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Dr. O'Leary says Dr. Arthur Koblitz is operating on Brady. O'Leary says President suffered no other injuries. Went to GWU because it was closest hospital. Used Red Cross blood. Appears as if major reason for bleeding was from entry wound; slow bleeding, easy to transfuse; total of two and a half quarts. Recommends President not be moved for next few days; says difficult to say if President was ever close to death. No reason for expecting post-operative problems. Doctor characterizes Reagan's attitude and says recovery is almost extraordinary. Reagan doesn't know about Brady's condition. Incision in President is six inches long on chest. Reagan will be in moderate pain for a day or two. Because Brady is in critical condition, he is fighting for his life. Normal recuperation for a 70-year old is two to three months -- only a guess; and going to ranch is up to President. Reagan is fully up to making stressful decisions. X-rays can be misleading because of three-dimensional lack; bullet was several inches from heart. Brady's surgery could go on for hours.

Nofziger concludes press conference; blames self for not getting information to reporters earlier. Donaldson asks about Haig; Nofziger doesn't reply. Will meet with doctors at 7 a.m. and then decide on further briefings which will include doctors. Have not considered 25th amendment. Only one gunman. Not getting into conspiracy theory; waiting for police investigation. Incident will speak for itself when asked whether this will change President's position on handguns.

Sheila Patton says Mrs. Reagan is calm and grateful for prayers, outpouring of support. Mrs. Reagan has seen Mrs. Brady and Mrs. McCarthy.

Nofziger announces Bush will spend night at VP residence. Briefing in 450 OEOB. Doesn't know if allies have been notified, but bets they have been.

Donaldson concludes President is in good shape. Koppel and Reynolds review Dr. O'Leary's remark that President's recovery is very nearly extraordinary.

Maureen Reagan in California with angry reaction to shooting and implications.

Bettina Gregory reviews Hinkley's well-off family.

Sen. Dole interviewed by Brit Hume.

VP briefs at WH briefing room and says he is deeply heartened by doctor's prognosis; reassures the world that government is operating effectively; grateful to those who have expressed concern, and particular concern to security agents who courageously protected President. Going to talk with Mrs. Reagan at WH.

Recap of Bush's comments and the day's events by Frank Reynolds.

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NETWORKS NEWS COVERAGE - - March 30, 1981

The following is a chronological listing of coverage by CBS.

CBS went on the air with a news bulletin at 2:39 p.m. It then started live continuous coverage at 3:05 p.m.

At 3:07 p.m., CBS ran the film of the shooting and reported that Press Secretary Jim Brady had been seriously wounded...3:31, it is announced that President Reagan had been hit and CBS follows the report with more film footage including pictures of the window of the President's limousine that was hit by a bullet.

Dan Rather and Lem Tucker provide analysis of the facts known at that time and report that Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy had been wounded and that authorities had arrested John W. Hinckley. David Gergen confirms that President Reagan had been hit and Lyn Nofziger makes his first statment from G.W. hospital.

Rather reports on the extent of the President's injuries at 4:13 p.m. and provides an update on the President's medical status. Channel 9's news reporter Gordon Peterson reports at 4:16 that President Reagan is undergoing surgery. Rather and Phil Jones report that the President is undergoing blood transfusions and recount what an eye witness at GW hospital has said about the President's condition.

Larry Speakes makes a statement from the WH press room at 4:30 p.m. followed by Sec. Haig stating that he is in charge at the White House pending the arrival of Vice President Bush. Rather comments on Haig's remarks.

Rather and Jed Duvall reported that the suspect, John W. Hinckley, had earlier been arrested at the Nashville Airport with three handguns in his luggage on Oct. 9th. Then-President Carter spoke in Nashville a few hours following the incident.

CBS's Bill Plante reports on the President's condition from the WH press room at 4:45p.m. Rather and Duvall recap events to date and speculate on the President's surgery.

Jed Duvall reports at 5:11 p.m. that James Brady has died. Rather and Lesley Stahl discuss the Brady story and recap events. Speaker of the House Rep. Tip O'Neill comments on the day's events.

At 5:27 p.m., Larry Speakes announces from the WH press room that James Brady is still alive. Rather and Jim McManus report on the President's status (5:32 p.m.). Rather introduces Dr. Keith Reemtsma of the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Reemtsma provides his medical anaylsis of the facts at hand.

Western European reaction to the shooting is reported (6:04) and Walter Cronkite reports from overseas. Lyn Nofziger makes another statement from GWU hospital at 6:19 p.m.

Vice President Bush arrives at Andrews Air Force Base at 6:36 p.m.

Willis King (eyewitness to shooting) is interviewed.

President Reagan's son Michael comments on the shooting followed by Rep. Jim Wright who accompanied Vice President Bush back to Washington

Lem Tucker provides an eyewitness account of the shooting at 7:00 p.m. followed by Fred Graham reporting on Hinckley.

At 7:19 p.m. are unconfirmed reports that President Reagan is out of the operating room. James Brady's condition remains a mystery. Diane Sawyer reports from WH press room that the President is indeed out of surgery, according to highly placed WH sources, and his prognosis is listed as being good to excellent. Sawyer notes that the President has been out of surgery for at least 20 minutes and that a bullet fragment was removed.

Rather reports there is no indication of a military alert.

Lyn Nofziger announces from GWU Hospital that the President is out of surgery and is listed in good condition. Nofziger introduces Dr. Dennis O'Leary of the GWU medical staff. O'Leary states the President is in the recovery room in stable condition and alert. Notes the President was in operating room for two hours and that there was no blood in the chest cavity. Comments that bullet traversed off rib cage and was removed during surgery. O'Leary says prognosis is excellent and says President is an excellent physical specimen. Notes the President was clear of head and will be able to make decisions by tomorrow. O'Leary says bullet was distorted upon impact on rib. Doesn't know whether injury will be permanent. O'Leary says agent McCarthy was struck by a single bullet and is doing extremely well.

Brady is still in surgery. Condition critical. President required 5 units of blood during transfusion.

O'Leary says operation was lengthy in order to make sure there was no bleeding in abdominal cavity. Says President was never in any serious danger and believes there is every expectation of a normal recovery. (7:43 p.m.) Possibility Brady will suffer permanent brain damage CBS reports. Surgeons believe President will be in moderate pain.

CBS breaks away from medical briefing for a demonstration in N.Y. studio by Dr. Reemstma to explain the nature of the injury. (7:55 p.m.)

Bush at WH tonight. CBS to broadcast a special report at 11:30 p.m. to wrap up coverage.

CBS replays videotape of shooting. (8:00 p.m.)

Rather gives update on Brady and 2 officers' condition. Also tells of bullet marks on limo. Mrs. Reagan arrives at hospital.

Switch to Sheila Patton. Said he left WH with Nancy Reagan. Is currently with Mrs. Brady and Mrs. McCarthy. Nofziger says Vice President Bush will spend night at VP residence. Morning briefing to be in room 450 of OEGB. Nofziger says he didn't know if allies had been notified of President's stable

condition.

Recap of medical briefing and surgery timetable by Rather.

Rather shows part of Haig's "Constitutional" lineup. "As of now I am in control here, pending arrival of the Vice President." Sec. is obviously confused says Rather. Rather calls it understandable, but regrettable. Asks Robert Pierpoint how Haig could make such a mistake. State Dept. spokesman William Dyess says the Secretary never mentioned succession, just the power in the Administration. (Dyess not shown, just paraphrased).

More assurances by Rather on the condition of the President...his excellent physiological health. Talk about Hinckley. Charges, etc.,

Talk about Haig overreaching himself. Professor of History at Columbia says Haig was operating under the old law that went out under Truman.

CBS's Bruce Morton says President will be able to make decisions by tomorrow. Meese, Baker, Deaver, and Bush will try to take pressure off the President in the short term. Press release by National Coalition to Ban Handguns already. Morton almost guarantees that gun legislation will be affected. Speculation about just who will be making the most decisions for now.

Vice President Bush reads brief statement at 8:27 p.m. Says American Government is functioning fully and effectively. Officers fulfilling functions with skill and care. Grateful to all people expressing concern. Profound concern on behalf of two law officers and friend Brady. Asks for prayers and hope.

Mrs. Reagan is back in residence...Vice President said he would talk briefly with her (8:30 p.m.)

CBS's Bill Plante says Brady's condition is very serious. Larry Speakes says WH will continue with schedule as planned with Bush assuming President's appointments and meetings. No cause for President to turn over control to Vice President. Speakes repeats that Sec. Weinberger is not third in line of succession, but command authority. Speakes repeats that President is CIC.

Rather repeats Haig statement. Says there seems to be confusion as to who is in charge of country.

Old interview with Maureen Reagan, talking about problems and dangers of the Presidency.

Brother Neil tape. Michael Reagan tape - both today. Short interview with Brady's parents.

Lem Tucker (CBS) recaps day's events. Shows video again in slow motion.

Rather notes again that Hinckley was arrested before with 3 handguns. Tucker says that before President arrived, Hinkley was pointed out, maybe not specifically, by a reporter who complained that general public was in press area. Tucker questions the police's job.

Recap on Hill reaction. Baker's announcement on floor of Senate. Cong. Wright and Bush's reactions. Tip O'Neill remained secluded until news that the President was OK.

More on Hinckley.

Bruce Morton continues his discussion with Dan Rather. Says California inner circle (Meese, Deaver, Weinberger, Deaver, Casey, Baker, and Bush) will be making decisions.

CBS runs interview with Maureen Reagan made today.

Recap on conditions of victims.....

The following is a chronological listing of coverage by NBC-TV
Times are approximate; of necessity, description of coverage is abbreviated...

NBC-TV aired the news of the attempted assassination at approximately 2:38 p.m. Within 15 minutes NBC showed footage of the attempt on the President's life, portions of which were aired in slow motion...3:15 p.m. was the approximate time NBC reported Reagan had indeed been shot and taken to G.W.U. Medical Center. Shortly thereafter in a live report from the WH Dave Gergen confirmed the facts, and noted Bush was on his way to D.C.

At 3:45 Roger Mudd reported the President's condition is stable and Jim Brady's condition is very serious.

Then at 4:12 in a live report Judy Woodruff covers Secty. Haig's comments from the briefing room and she notes Reagan is in surgery.

Tom Pettit reported from the Capitol at 4:23. Quotes and reactions from senators, especially Kennedy follow.

Marvin Kalb reported at 4:40 Reagan's surgery is complete, that he is in good condition and Brady's condition is questionable. There was then a replay of the incident in slow motion.

Lyn Nofziger's "live" report from the hospital at 5:06

NBC announced Jim Brady was dead at 5:11 and at 5:12 reported the WH confirmed Brady's death.

At 5:20 p.m. NBC reverses its comment on Brady's death, followed by Larry Speakes's live report at 5:25 that Reagan is in good condition and Brady is indeed alive.

Dr. Joseph Wilder appeared for NBC at approximately 5:56 followed shortly thereafter by Lyn Nofziger, an eyewitness's account of what happened and Dr. Wilder again.

6:30 p.m.NBC EVENING NEWS.....

John Chancellor reports there has been an attempt upon the President's life, a USSS agent has been shot, so has a D.C. policeman and Press Secretary James Brady is in critical condition after being shot in the head.

At 6:33 Roger Mudd shows video coverage of the assassination attempt in slo-mo.

Chancellor, Mudd, and Carl Stern share coverage at 6:40 of John Warnock Hinkley, his background and pre-arraignment coverage at the Court House.

Chancellor reports at 6:44, V.P. Bush has arrived at Andrews A.F.B. Followed by the overseas reaction on the attempt on the Presidents life.

Tom Pettit reports Capitol Hill stopped operating as soon as word of the attempt reached the Hill. Pettit noted emotions and outrage ran high.

NBC at 6:51 covered the latest news on the Polish labor movement and unrest in Poland.

Chancellor intros Reagan's son Michael at 6:54 est. from Calif.

At 7:00 NBC reports the President is in good condition followed by another showing of the attempt. Much of the commentary by the reporters is replay from earlier reports while waiting for the briefing from the hospital.

7:34 brings the long awaited briefing by Dr. Dennis O'Leary. The Doctor briefs the press on the President's condition as well as the three other men shot. Q & A follows.

At 8:02, Nofziger takes the podium briefly and fields a few questions.

Then at 8:08 Nofziger introduces Sheila Patton.

Nofziger closes the briefing at 8:10 informing press the following morning's briefing will take place in room 450 OEOB.

At 8:15 NBC speaks with the President's brother, Neil, who is optimistic about the President's ability to recover from his wounds.

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ABC News "Nightline"

Tuesday evening, March 30, 1981
11:30 p.m. EST

The subject of tonight's broadcast was the shooting of President Reagan and security procedures for the President.

Ted Koppel interviewed Chuck Vance, a former Secret Service agent, and Hank Brown, the ABC cameraman who filmed the shooting at the Washington Hilton.

Vance, in providing a commentary on the film of the shooting, remarked that there were no mistakes on the part of the Secret Service and it was miraculous that the Secret Service acted as quickly as they did. He noted that because the press was allowed to get close to the President, the general public was allowed to get closer also.

Brown mentioned that he had earlier complained to the S.S. that the general public was getting into the areas designated for press. He emphasized that while he was attempting to set-up his equipment inside the hotel, the general public was milling around the press section and interfering with their efforts. He brought this to the attention of the S.S. agent in charge of the press, but nothing was done about it.

Susan King, ABC, reported on the line of succession when the President is incapacitated. King noted that at no point today was Vice President Bush in charge. She did report however, that presidential power seemed to reside with White House aides Ed Meese, James Baker and Michael Deaver since they were with the President at the hospital. She added that the command authority among the Cabinet members in the White House Situation Room was "informal." King concluded her report rehashing Sec. Haig's comments that he was in charge pending arrival of Vice President Bush but added that White House sources say Weinberger would have been third in line of succession, not Haig.

Ted Koppel then interviewed syndicated columnist George Will. Will remarked that the most striking thing about the entire day was that the President retained his "jauntiness" and that this alone helped to reassure the country. Will said that the country did not need reassuring and that Sec. Haig was being "politically insensitive to an astonishing degree." When Koppel questioned Will about Larry Speake's remark that Sec. Weinberger is third in command control, Will felt that the comment was intended to imply that Sec. Weinberger would have been in 3rd in line in the event of a military emergency.

Former Attorney General Griffin Bell remarked that one of the better things of the day was that the Cabinet was standing by throughout the afternoon in the situation room. He added that he doesn't understand the succession of command under this administration and that he doubted Larry Speake's comment that Sec. Weinberger would be third in line of succession.

ABC's Sam Donaldson reported from the White House that under a highly classified procedure, Sec. Weinberger has been designated to follow Vice President Bush in the event of an emergency. Donaldson noted that the decision was made by President Reagan upon assuming office and that in no way was it a spur of the moment order to cut Sec. of State Haig out of line. Donaldson concluded adding that Vice President Bush could have made a decision from his aircraft while in route to Washington.

Koppel remarked that there was a certain murkiness concerning the role of Michael Deaver, Ed Meese and James Baker. Griffin Bell responded by noting that neither of the three could have made any major decisions. Bell added that only the Vice President and the Cabinet can make decisions on when they should take over.

ABC's Barrie Dunsmore reported from the State Department that Sec. of State Haig wasn't trying to grasp control of the country because it was already known that Sec. Weinberger was third in line of control. He noted that this is mandated by the National Command Authority and that if the Vice President had assumed control, he would have had to respond to a military emergency through Sec. Weinberger.

Ted Koppel next interviewed Henry Kissinger. Kissinger remarked that the situation today was handled extremely well and that Bush's statement was reassuring. He noted that the Cabinet members were communicating in the situation room and that there was a functioning government in Washington. He concluded saying that the situation has been well and maturely handled.

Barbara Walters spoke to former President Ford in Tokyo. Mr. Ford said the news of the incident created a flashback for him and that he was able to speak to the situation room briefly today.

Late update report

Barry Sarafin reported from GWU hospital that serious questions remain for White House Press Secretary Jim Brady. A brain scan shows that the bullet that struck him fragmented.

Bettina Gregory reported from the U.S. District Court House that the suspected assailant, John W. Hinckley, was arraigned late Tuesday evening. Hinckley has been given two court-appointed attorneys and the courtroom was sealed off from reporters. Gregory reported that FBI Director William Webster was present at the courthouse and that the FBI was going to take Hinckley to an undisclosed location after the proceedings this evening.

WORLD REACTION TO SHOOTING

From Reuters News Service, March 30, 1981

In Moscow, TASS reported the shooting with a brief outline of the circumstances without making any other comment.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim condemned what he called, "a wanton act of terrorism," against President Reagan and sent a message wishing him a speedy recovery.

In Hong Kong, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington declined immediate comment; might make statement later.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a message to the President saying she prayed his injuries were not serious. Buckingham Palace says Queen Elizabeth also sent message.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Marc MacGuigan said, "I don't know how to react...I'm shocked."

French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing sent President a telegram conveying "warmest and most friendly wishes" for his full recovery and continuance of his leadership of the United States.

From Jerusalem, Israeli PM Menachem Begin cabled to wish the President a speedy recovery.

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Canada's Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan said today that threats were made against President Reagan's life during his visit to that country on March 10 and 11.

PM Trudeau, who was in Montreal on private business when informed of the attempt, said he had reacted "with a sense of deep distress and shock."

Tokyo stock exchange suspended trading in its foreign stock section for today only to avoid confusion over the assassination attempt.

New York Stock Exchange halted dealing because of the news.

Dollar and Tokyo Stock Exchange average both fell sharply.

MAJOR NEWSPAPER HEADLINES -- Tuesday, March 31, 1981

WALL STREET JOURNAL

"GUNMAN'S ATTACK: REAGAN SHOT IN CHEST ON WASHINGTON STREET, UNDERGOES SURGERY: Prognosis Called 'Excellent'; Press Aide James Brady and 2 Officers Hit: Gasps in the Senate Chamber" (Head w/2 sub-heads/A-1)

"STEADY STAND-IN: BUSH'S TEMPORARY ROLE IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE COURSE OF U.S. POLICY: He is a Well-Briefed Member of Reagan Inner Circle and Known for Loyalty: Touchy Relations with Haig" (Head w/2 sub-heads/A-1)

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"REAGAN SURVIVES GUNSHOT; OUTLOOK CALLED EXCELLENT: Three Others Wounded in D.C." (2 line banner w/1 sub-head/pic/A-1)

"THE SUSPECT: A YOUNG MAN OF PRIVILEGE"
(4-column head/pic/A-1)

"A SMILE, A WAVE; THEN 'ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE" (A-1)

THE WASHINGTON STAR

"REAGAN RALLIES SWIFTLY; GUNMAN IS DENIED BAIL: Brady Critical; Two Officers Wounded" (2-line banner w/1 sub-head/4 pics/A-1)

"ACCUSED ASSAILANT A DRIFTER" (A-1)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

"ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT CONTINUES PATTERN OF U.S. VIOLENCE: Incident Casts Doubt on Quick Return to Budget and Tax Cut Issues"
(Head w/1 sub-head/pic/A-1)

"MORAL ISSUES FOREMOST WITH AMERICAN VOTERS" (A-1)

"WALESA CALLS OFF STRIKE: POLAND EDGES PAST CRISIS"
(Head w/1 sub-head/A-1)



The White House NEWS SUMMARY

*Keep
all records
of 3/31*

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1981, -- 6 a.m. edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL

"Reagan Wounded by Assassinating's Bullet; Prognosis Is "Excellent"; 3 Others Shot"
In a six-column banner story, David S. Broder, covers the attempt on the
President. (Post)

TELEVISION COVERAGE...by networks

INTERNATIONAL

"Poles Reach Accord; Union Suspends General Strike" -- Lech Walesa says he
is 70 percent satisfied with the agreement, yet cautions he cannot guarantee
union executive body will accept proposed settlement. (Washington Post)

From Reuters News Service, World Reaction to Shooting.

NETWORK NEWS (Monday Evening)

All three networks (ABC/CBS/NBC)
covered the assassination attempt
on President Reagan's life.
No other story except for the possible
agreement in Poland was played.

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REAGAN WOUNDED BY ASSASSIN'S BULLET; PROGNOSIS IS 'EXCELLENT: 3 OTHERS SHOT

In a six-column front-page banner headline with picture, David S. Broder reported the scenes at the Washington Hilton Hotel as they unfolded March 30, 1981. Broder reports: President Reagan survived an assassination attempt Monday when a revolver-wielding gunman waiting among reporters and photographers on the sidewalk outside the Hilton Hotel fired a bullet into his chest. Broder also reports Jim Brady, who was five feet from the President and no further from the assailant, was the most gravely injured person. He notes television networks reported incorrectly in late afternoon Brady had died, but hospital officials said Monday night the 40-year-old Brady was in surgery and "fighting for his life." Broder points out the first report from Karna Small was Reagan had not been hit but might have been injured slightly as he was pushed into his limousine. It was not until 3:18 p.m. that Frank Ursomarso, stood on a secretary's chair in the briefing room and told a crowd of reporters, "I'm confirming the President was shot." Later in the afternoon, all three television networks reported Brady's death--only to have that report contradicted by Brady's deputy, Larry Speakes. (David S. Broder, Washington Post, 3/31, A1)

SENATE, STUNNED BY NEWS, HALTS BUDGET ACTION

The Senate, its members standing by in stunned silence, broke off action on Reagan's proposed budget cuts Monday after Majority Leader Baker reported the President had been shot. The Senate was in the midst of debate on Bradley's amendment to the budget when word came over radios and wire service news tickers an attempt had been made on the President's life. (Helen Dewar, Washington Post 3/31, A4)

THE MORBID ECHO

Haynes Johnson in a front-page commentary with picture, points out there is no way to escape this replaying of an old national horror. He recalls we have all been through this before, people huddled before TV sets forced to think the unthinkable. Remembering the Kennedy brothers, Martin Luther King Jr, Malcom X, George Wallace and the two attempts on Gerald Ford's life, Johnson points out violence has struck down leaders regardless of ideology or race. The violence that has taken so many American leaders has left a collective legacy of unfulfilled political promises. And among countless Americans it has created a haunting form of morbid introspection, of hopes dashed, of wondering what might have been, as they have seen their leaders struck down again and again. Johnson asks: Just how much more of this tearing at the fabric of the nation can America endure without fundamentally changing the character of national life? Johnson ends his commentary this way: The hope is Reagan's sense of American good humor in the face of adversity, the celebration of the survivor, will be what is most remembered about the events of March 30, 1981. But it won't begin to answer why the violence occurs--or what to do about it. (Haynes Johnson, Washington Post, 3/31, A1)

SHIFTS IN MILK, PEANUT PRICE SUPPORTS PROPOSED IN ADMINISTRATION'S FARM BILL

Fundamental changes in the milk and peanut-support programs, an end to the target-price program that supplements farmers' incomes, and slight increases in grain price supports are features of the 1981 general farm bill the Administration was scheduled to announce today. According to sources, however, the Administration did not intend to send a formal bill to Congress for some days, in an

apparent effort to avoid entanglement with the committees over line-by-line details. On another front Monday, reacting to Reagan's decision to continue the embargo on grain to the Soviet Union, the American Agriculture Movement announced a call for a voluntary farmers' embargo to stop delivery of agricultural products. (Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, 3/31, A5)

* * *

EDITORIAL

SHOOTING -- "Certainly the S.S. precautions and the security generally of the President will need to be reexamined in relation to this terrible event. And it is surely possible some fault lay in the character of those protections, that things will need to be tightened up. But it is also true and very important to remember there is a point beyond which these protections cannot go...Has everything been done that must be done to limit the opportunities as much as possible? We will not believe it has been until those damnable firearms have been put out of the reach of every criminal and potential criminal who wants one--to whom they are accessible now...The caption on this dreadful picture is not that Americans as a nation or a people are violent or weak, but that some among us are--and are armed. (Washington Post, 3/31)

INTERNATIONAL

POLES REACH ACCORD; UNION SUSPENDS GENERAL STRIKE

The Solidarity union movement suspended a potentially catastrophic general strike call Monday after marathon talks with the Communist government produced tentative agreement on major issues one hour before a union deadline was to expire. "I am 70 percent satisfied with the agreement," Solidarity leader Walesa said. Walesa cautioned, however, he can not guarantee the union's decision-making executive body will accept the proposed settlement. (Brian Mooney, Washington Post, 3/31, A1)

U.S. WARNS OF ECONOMIC AID CUTOFF IF POLAND SUPPRESSES SOLIDARITY

The Reagan Administration warned the Polish government Monday that internal "suppression" of the independent labor movement in that country would foreclose any further U.S. economic aid. Concerning the reason for the U.S. position, Brady said, "It's our money and it's an internal decision on what we do economically...What is closer to our nation than our own money?" U.S. sources said Germany is taking the lead in seeking to put together a new package of emergency aid to assist Poland between now and midsummer. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, 3/31, A16)

NETWORK NEWS COVERAGE - - MARCH 30, 1981

The following is a chronological listing of coverage by ABC-TV
Times are approximate; of necessity, description of coverage is abbreviated...

ABC went on the air with the news of the attempted assassination at 2:34 p.m. for five minutes with their first report; came back on at 2:42 p.m. to 2:52 p.m. and returned at 2:59 p.m., remaining on the air until 8:30 p.m.

Within 10-15 minutes they had videotape of the attempt...commentary by Frank Reynolds followed...information originally reported that James Brady and two officers were shot but the President was not. Later they reported that the President was on the way to George Washington U. Hospital but was not hit. They discussed the VP's being on a trip...

At approximately 3:43 they covered a statement by Lyn Nofziger at the hospital stating Reagan had been shot (taped)...Dave Gergen made a live statement from the White House confirming the facts.

Reporter Bill Greenwood reported from WH; Sam Donaldson from GWU. Reporter Brit Hume reported on reaction on Capitol Hill.

Still photos and slow-motion tape of the event shown.

Around 4 p.m. ABC reported that Jim Brady was in critical condition and shortly after announced the President was being operated on. Eyewitnesses gave accounts of the shooting at the hotel.

At approximately 4:11, ABC identified the suspect as John Hinckley, Jr.

Larry Speakes briefed at WH approx 4:18. Coverage continued with a report from KBTW in Colorado with background on the suspect.

At 5:13, Frank Reynolds announced that Jim Brady was dead, but a conflicting report came about 3 minutes later; approx. 4 minutes later Speakes briefed that the report on the death of Jim Brady was in error. Reports continued on the condition of the President, Brady and the other victims. Michael Reagan was interviewed at home. ABC Cameraman Hank Brown was interviewed as an eyewitness.

ABC did not do the regularly-scheduled World News Tonight but did cover short reports from Bangkok and Poland.

Ted Koppel summarized the situation at hospital reporting that President is in stable condition, Brady remains critical.

VP Bush is returning but there is a question as to whether he will return due to reports the President hadn't been shot but after report of wounds, he flew back immediately. Repeat of tape of assassination attempt.

Reagan will be in surgery until 7 p.m., a total of three hours.

ABC Dallas affiliate reports Hinckly bought two revolvers in Dallas back before convention, but his handgun was purchased more recently by mail order.

-more-

Another update...President is expected to be in surgery for several more minutes; prognosis for Brady not good...few people survive such wounds. Earlier reports that Brady is dead are not true, repeat not true.

Susan King at WH reviews Speakes statement that President is o.k. and Brady is alive. Adds that most staff returned to situation room. No cabinet meeting, but in the event anything further happens they are ready. Sec. Haig spoke earlier and said he is in charge. Trying not to talk too early because details unclear, and do not want to give out information too early. WH Press office remains very calm. All waiting for the President to get out of operation.

ABC reviews previous assassination attempts.

Neil Reagan, President's brother, is interviewed.

Reynolds reports Reagan is still in surgery but the operation is successful; President in good condition...information unofficial from Laxalt to Sen. Baker to ABC.

Bush returns.

Barrie Dunsmore reports that Haig gathered Secretaries quickly and says he is in control until the President returns, if something were to happen Haig would check with President quickly, but VP is still in charge and then the Speaker of the House and then Haig.

Reynolds says exploratory surgery concentrating on abdominal area. Rumor that President had undergone open heart surgery are untrue and stem from fact that President had open-chest surgery.

Sam Donaldson in Press Room at hospital. All reports positive. President is in stable and guarded condition. Lyn Nofziger has been briefing regularly.

Reynolds...preparations being made for Mrs. Reagan to spend night at hospital. Bush will be at hospital until President is out of surgery. President went into surgery at 3:45 p.m., three hours ago, and all looks well. Doctor says President should be o.k. in 7-10 days and President's age is not a factor. Repeats that Reagan walked into hospital and cracked jokes.

George Strait was with Bush on flight back from Texas, reviews chronology of situation...sudden rush of secret service agents. Reporting from Andrews AFB, pilot says plane has never flown faster than it did en route to Washington.

VP went from WH to Hospital. Bush didn't talk to reporters, sat quietly in his seat, thinking about the future. Congressmen with Bush report that Bush was calm and relaxed.

Reynolds clears up point, saying Bush is at WH, not at hospital.

Donaldson and Sarafin, expecting Nofziger and surgeon soon. Sarafin says they did exploratory surgery; bullet hit lower left lung, but surgery went well. Brady's condition -- all we have is confusion. Brady on maximum support unit.

Review quips and quotes from Reagan and Sarafin concludes these are the signs of a man apparently holding his own.

-more-

Reynolds talks of whether the President was wearing a bullet-proof vest and concludes there is no way of knowing. Narrates slow motion tape. John Warnock Hinckley will be arraigned this evening. Agent is in good condition. Policeman John Dillahanty is not in good condition; agent Timothy McCarthy is in good condition. Hinckley had been arrested once before; bought two handguns for \$47 each last October and one of those handguns may have been used.

Ted Koppel questions why a small bullet is so dangerous and is told that a low mass low velocity bullet bounces around and causes damage.

FR and TK apologize for same old reports but eager to keep broadcasting as people come home from work and hear story for the first time, and there are still developments.

Hinckley arraigned under federal officials assassination law; a fairly new law in D.C.

Bob Hope talks about his trip during campaign with Reagan and talks about how FBI counseled the President to wear flak jackets. Koppel sort of concludes that Reagan must have been wearing the jacket, but Reynolds corrects him and they review the situation. Surgery takes a long time because it is exploratory.

Bush is at White House, but great secrecy surrounds his arrival and security agents keep reporters away from VP. Security has never been so tight, according to one reporter. In situation room, Bush assumes control of crisis management team, and closely watching the reactions of people around the world; and whether anybody will take advantage of the power vacuum.

Donaldson recreates the tragic scene. Surgeons say surgery is complete; bullet did not fragment and is removed. Dr. Benjamin Aaron was lead surgeon. Reporters shout as doctors privately brief somebody off camera.

Peter Jennings says leaders of the world are shocked. Chancellor Schmidt sends condolences. Tass gives scant attention; Moscow radio ignores it. Thatcher Press Secretary is interviewed and says Thatcher reacted with shock. Particularly grieved by Brady's condition who had just been a gracious and generous host. No problems with Western alliance; security matters not changed.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. Nofziger briefs at hospital...says President is out of surgery and in good condition. Dr. Dennis O'Leary briefs on operation and condition of President and secret service agent. Traces bullet trajectory, concluding bullet entered lung; bullet was removed; prognosis excellent. Recovery time is difficult to say but President is clear of head and can make decisions tomorrow. Bullet was distorted as it struck seventh rib. No involvement of aorta. Responds to reporter's questions: McCarthy doing extremely well. Brady still in surgery; condition critical. Estimates Reagan will stay in hospital two weeks. Reagan required blood transfusion. Brady shot in side of forehead; bullet passed through his brain and he has brain injury. Dr. Aaron, associate professor of surgery, performed surgery on Reagan. No abdominal bleeding with President. Doubtful that lung will collapse. Other complications doubtful. Emphasizes that President is physiologically very young. Before surgery, President asks doctors about being Republicans. Dr. said everyone was a Republican today. All doctors feel President can make decisions tomorrow.

-more-

Dr. O'Leary says Dr. Arthur Koblitz is operating on Brady. O'Leary says President suffered no other injuries. Went to GWU because it was closest hospital. Used Red Cross blood. Appears as if major reason for bleeding was from entry wound; slow bleeding, easy to transfuse; total of two and a half quarts. Recommends President not be moved for next few days; says difficult to say if President was ever close to death. No reason for expecting post-operative problems. Doctor characterizes Reagan's attitude and says recovery is almost extraordinary. Reagan doesn't know about Brady's condition. Incision in President is six inches long on chest. Reagan will be in moderate pain for a day or two. Because Brady is in critical condition, he is fighting for his life. Normal recuperation for a 70-year old is two to three months -- only a guess; and going to ranch is up to President. Reagan is fully up to making stressful decisions. X-rays can be misleading because of three-dimensional lack; bullet was several inches from heart. Brady's surgery could go on for hours.

Nofziger concludes press conference; blames self for not getting information to reporters earlier. Donaldson asks about Haig; Nofziger doesn't reply. Will meet with doctors at 7 a.m. and then decide on further briefings which will include doctors. Have not considered 25th amendment. Only one gunman. Not getting into conspiracy theory; waiting for police investigation. Incident will speak for itself when asked whether this will change President's position on handguns.

Sheila Patton says Mrs. Reagan is calm and grateful for prayers, outpouring of support. Mrs. Reagan has seen Mrs. Brady and Mrs. McCarthy.

Nofziger announces Bush will spend night at VP residence. Briefing in 450 OE0B. Doesn't know if allies have been notified, but bets they have been.

Donaldson concludes President is in good shape. Koppel and Reynolds review Dr. O'Leary's remark that President's recovery is very nearly extraordinary.

Maureen Reagan in California with angry reaction to shooting and implications.

Bettina Gregory reviews Hinkley's well-off family.

Sen. Dole interviewed by Brit Hume.

VP briefs at WH briefing room and says he is deeply heartened by doctor's prognosis; reassures the world that government is operating effectively; grateful to those who have expressed concern, and particular concern to security agents who courageously protected President. Going to talk with Mrs. Reagan at WH.

Recap of Bush's comments and the day's events by Frank Reynolds.

-end-

NETWORKS NEWS COVERAGE - - March 30, 1981

The following is a chronological listing of coverage by CBS

CBS went on the air with a news bulletin at 2:39 p.m. It then started live continuous coverage at 3:05 p.m.

At 3:07 p.m., CBS ran the film of the shooting and reported that Press Secretary Jim Brady had been seriously wounded...3:31, it is announced that President Reagan had been hit and CBS follows the report with more film footage including pictures of the window of the President's limousine that was hit by a bullet.

Dan Rather and Lem Tucker provide analysis of the facts known at that time and report that Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy had been wounded and that authorities had arrested John W. Hinckley. David Gergen confirms that President Reagan had been hit and Lyn Nofziger makes his first statement from G.W. hospital.

Rather reports on the extent of the President's injuries at 4:13 p.m. and provides an update on the President's medical status. Channel 9's news reporter Gordon Peterson reports at 4:16 that President Reagan is undergoing surgery. Rather and Phil Jones report that the President is undergoing blood transfusions and recount what an eye witness at GW hospital has said about the President's condition.

Larry Speakes makes a statement from the WH press room at 4:30 p.m. followed by Sec. Haig stating that he is in charge at the White House pending the arrival of Vice President Bush. Rather comments on Haig's remarks.

Rather and Jed Duvall reported that the suspect, John W. Hinckley, had earlier been arrested at the Nashville Airport with three handguns in his luggage on Oct. 9th. Then-President Carter spoke in Nashville a few hours following the incident.

CBS's Bill Plante reports on the President's condition from the WH press room at 4:45p.m. Rather and Duvall recap events to date and speculate on the President's surgery.

Jed Duvall reports at 5:11 p.m. that James Brady has died. Rather and Lesley Stahl discuss the Brady story and recap events. Speaker of the House Rep. Tip O'Neill comments on the day's events.

At 5:27 p.m., Larry Speakes announces from the WH press room that James Brady is still alive. Rather and Jim McManus report on the President's status (5:32 p.m.). Rather introduces Dr. Keith Reemtsma of the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Reemtsma provides his medical analysis of the facts at hand.

Western European reaction to the shooting is reported (6:04) and Walter Cronkite reports from overseas. Lyn Nofziger makes another statement from GWU hospital at 6:19 p.m.

Vice President Bush arrives at Andrews Air Force Base at 6:36 p.m.

Willis King (eyewitness to shooting) is interviewed.

President Reagan's son Michael comments on the shooting followed by Rep. Jim Wright who accompanied Vice President Bush back to Washington

Lem Tucker provides an eyewitness account of the shooting at 7:00 p.m. followed by Fred Graham reporting on Hinckley.

At 7:19 p.m. are unconfirmed reports that President Reagan is out of the operating room. James Brady's condition remains a mystery. Diane Sawyer reports from WH press room that the President is indeed out of surgery, according to highly placed WH sources, and his prognosis is listed as being good to excellent. Sawyer notes that the President has been out of surgery for at least 20 minutes and that a bullet fragment was removed.

Rather reports there is no indication of a military alert.

Lyn Nofziger announces from GWU Hospital that the President is out of surgery and is listed in good condition. Nofziger introduces Dr. Dennis O'Leary of the GWU medical staff. O'Leary states the President is in the recovery room in stable condition and alert. Notes the President was in operating room for two hours and that there was no blood in the chest cavity. Comments that bullet traversed off rib cage and was removed during surgery. O'Leary says prognosis is excellent and says President is an excellent physical specimen. Notes the President was clear of head and will be able to make decisions by tomorrow. O'Leary says bullet was distorted upon impact on rib. Doesn't know whether injury will be permanent. O'Leary says agent McCarthy was struck by a single bullet and is doing extremely well.

Brady is still in surgery. Condition critical. President required 5 units of blood during transfusion.

O'Leary says operation was lengthy in order to make sure there was no bleeding in abdominal cavity. Says President was never in any serious danger and believes there is every expectation of a normal recovery. (7:43 p.m.) Possibility Brady will suffer permanent brain damage CBS reports. Surgeons believe President will be in moderate pain.

CBS breaks away from medical briefing for a demonstration in N.Y. studio by Dr. Reemstma to explain the nature of the injury. (7:55 p.m.)

Bush at WH tonight. CBS to broadcast a special report at 11:30 p.m. to wrap up coverage.

CBS replays videotape of shooting. (8:00 p.m.)

Rather gives update on Brady and 2 officers' condition. Also tells of bullet marks on limo. Mrs. Reagan arrives at hospital.

Switch to Sheila Patton. Said he left WH with Nancy Reagan. Is currently with Mrs. Brady and Mrs. McCarthy. Nofziger says Vice President Bush will spend night at VP residence. Morning briefing to be in room 450 of OEOB. Nofziger says he didn't know if allies had been notified of President's stable

condition.

Recap of medical briefing and surgery timetable by Rather.

Rather shows part of Haig's "Constitutional" lineup. "As of now I am in control here, pending arrival of the Vice President." Sec. is obviously confused says Rather. Rather calls it understandable, but regrettable. Asks Robert Pierpoint how Haig could make such a mistake. State Dept. spokesman William Dyess says the Secretary never mentioned succession, just the power in the Administration. (Dyess not shown, just paraphrased).

More assurances by Rather on the condition of the President...his excellent physiological health. Talk about Hinckley. Charges, etc.,

Talk about Haig overreaching himself. Professor of History at Columbia says Haig was operating under the old law that went out under Truman.

CBS's Bruce Morton says President will be able to make decisions by tomorrow. Meese, Baker, Deaver, and Bush will try to take pressure off the President in the short term. Press release by National Coalition to Ban Handguns already. Morton almost guarantees that gun legislation will be affected. Speculation about just who will be making the most decisions for now.

Vice President Bush reads brief statement at 8:27 p.m. Says American Government is functioning fully and effectively. Officers fulfilling functions with skill and care. Grateful to all people expressing concern. Profound concern on behalf of two law officers and friend Brady. Asks for prayers and hope.

Mrs. Reagan is back in residence...Vice President said he would talk briefly with her (8:30 p.m.)

CBS's Bill Plante says Brady's condition is very serious. Larry Speakes says WH will continue with schedule as planned with Bush assuming President's appointments and meetings. No cause for President to turn over control to Vice President. Speakes repeats that Sec. Weinberger is not third in line of succession, but command authority. Speakes repeats that President is CIC.

Rather repeats Haig statement. Says there seems to be confusion as to who is in charge of country.

Old interview with Maureen Reagan, talking about problems and dangers of the Presidency.

Brother Neil tape. Michael Reagan tape - both today. Short interview with Brady's parents.

Lem Tucker (CBS) recaps day's events. Shows video again in slow motion.

Rather notes again that Hinckley was arrested before with 3 handguns. Tucker says that before President arrived, Hinkley was pointed out, maybe not specifically, by a reporter who complained that general public was in press area. Tucker questions the police's job.

Recap on Hill reaction. Baker's announcement on floor of Senate. Cong. Wright and Bush's reactions. Tip O'Neill remained secluded until news that the President was OK.

More on Hinckley.

Bruce Morton continues his discussion with Dan Rather. Says California inner circle (Meese, Deaver, Weinberger, Deaver, Casey, Baker, and Bush) will be making decisions.

CBS runs interview with Maureen Reagan made today.

Recap on conditions of victims.....

The following is a chronological listing of coverage by NBC-TV
Times are approximate; of necessity, description of coverage is abbreviated...

NBC-TV aired the news of the attempted assassination at approximately 2:38 p.m. Within 15 minutes NBC showed footage of the attempt on the President's life, portions of which were aired in slow motion...3:15 p.m. was the approximate time NBC reported Reagan had indeed been shot and taken to G.W.U. Medical Center. Shortly thereafter in a live report from the WH Dave Gergen confirmed the facts, and noted Bush was on his way to D.C.

At 3:45 Roger Mudd reported the President's condition is stable and Jim Brady's condition is very serious.

Then at 4:12 in a live report Judy Woodruff covers Secty. Haig's comments from the briefing room and she notes Reagan is in surgery.

Tom Pettit reported from the Capitol at 4:23. Quotes and reactions from senators, especially Kennedy follow.

Marvin Kalb reported at 4:40 Reagan's surgery is complete, that he is in good condition and Brady's condition is questionable. There was then a replay of the incident in slow motion.

Lyn Nofziger's "live" report from the hospital at 5:06

NBC announced Jim Brady was dead at 5:11 and at 5:12 reported the WH confirmed Brady's death.

At 5:20 p.m. NBC reverses its comment on Brady's death, followed by Larry Speakes's live report at 5:25 that Reagan is in good condition and Brady is indeed alive.

Dr. Joseph Wilder appeared for NBC at approximately 5:56 followed shortly thereafter by Lyn Nofziger, an eyewitness's account of what happened and Dr. Wilder again.

6:30 p.m.NBC EVENING NEWS.....

John Chancellor reports there has been an attempt upon the President's life, a USSS agent has been shot, so has a D.C. policeman and Press Secretary James Brady is in critical condition after being shot in the head.

At 6:33 Roger Mudd shows video coverage of the assassination attempt in slo-mo.

Chancellor, Mudd, and Carl Stern share coverage at 6:40 of John Warnock Hinkley, his background and pre-arraignment coverage at the Court House.

Chancellor reports at 6:44, V.P. Bush has arrived at Andrews A.F.B. Followed by the overseas reaction on the attempt on the President's life.

Tom Pettit reports Capitol Hill stopped operating as soon as word of the attempt reached the Hill. Pettit noted emotions and outrage ran high.

NBC at 6:51 covered the latest news on the Polish labor movement and unrest in Poland.

Chancellor intros Reagan's son Michael at 6:54 est. from Calif.

At 7:00 NBC reports the President is in good condition followed by another showing of the attempt. Much of the commentary by the reporters is replay from earlier reports while waiting for the briefing from the hospital.

7:34 brings the long awaited briefing by Dr. Dennis O'Leary. The Doctor briefs the press on the President's condition as well as the three other men shot. Q & A follows.

At 8:02, Nofziger takes the podium briefly and fields a few questions.

Then at 8:08 Nofziger introduces Sheila Patton.

Nofziger closes the briefing at 8:10 informing press the following morning's briefing will take place in room 450 OE0B.

At 8:15 NBC speaks with the President's brother, Neil, who is optimistic about the President's ability to recover from his wounds.

-end-

ABC News "Nightline"

Tuesday evening, March 30, 1981
11:30 p.m. EST

The subject of tonight's broadcast was the shooting of President Reagan and security procedures for the President.

Ted Koppel interviewed Chuck Vance, a former Secret Service agent, and Hank Brown, the ABC cameraman who filmed the shooting at the Washington Hilton.

Vance, in providing a commentary on the film of the shooting, remarked that there were no mistakes on the part of the Secret Service and it was miraculous that the Secret Service acted as quickly as they did. He noted that because the press was allowed to get close to the President, the general public was allowed to get closer also.

Brown mentioned that he had earlier complained to the S.S. that the general public was getting into the areas designated for press. He emphasized that while he was attempting to set-up his equipment inside the hotel, the general public was milling around the press section and interfering with their efforts. He brought this to the attention of the S.S. agent in charge of the press, but nothing was done about it.

Susan King, ABC, reported on the line of succession when the President is incapacitated. King noted that at no point today was Vice President Bush in charge. She did report however, that presidential power seemed to reside with White House aides Ed Meese, James Baker and Michael Deaver since they were with the President at the hospital. She added that the command authority among the Cabinet members in the White House Situation Room was "informal." King concluded her report rehashing Sec. Haig's comments that he was in charge pending arrival of Vice President Bush but added that White House sources say Weinberger would have been third in line of succession, not Haig.

Ted Koppel then interviewed syndicated columnist George Will. Will remarked that the most striking thing about the entire day was that the President retained his "jauntiness" and that this alone helped to reassure the country. Will said that the country did not need reassuring and that Sec. Haig was being "politically insensitive to an astonishing degree." When Koppel questioned Will about Larry Speake's remark that Sec. Weinberger is third in command control, Will felt that the comment was intended to imply that Sec. Weinberger would have been in 3rd in line in the event of a military emergency.

Former Attorney General Griffin Bell remarked that one of the better things of the day was that the Cabinet was standing by throughout the afternoon in the situation room. He added that he doesn't understand the succession of command under this administration and that he doubted Larry Speake's comment that Sec. Weinberger would be third in line of succession.

ABC's Sam Donaldson reported from the White House that under a highly classified procedure, Sec. Weinberger has been designated to follow Vice President Bush in the event of an emergency. Donaldson noted that the decision was made by President Reagan upon assuming office and that in no way was it a spur of the moment order to cut Sec. of State Haig out of line. Donaldson concluded adding that Vice President Bush could have made a decision from his aircraft while in route to Washington.

Koppel remarked that there was a certain murkiness concerning the role of Michael Deaver, Ed Meese and James Baker. Griffin Bell responded by noting that neither of the three could have made any major decisions. Bell added that only the Vice President and the Cabinet can make decisions on when they should take over.

ABC's Barrie Dunsmore reported from the State Department that Sec. of State Haig wasn't trying to grasp control of the country because it was already known that Sec. Weinberger was third in line of control. He noted that this is mandated by the National Command Authority and that if the Vice President had assumed control, he would have had to respond to a military emergency through Sec. Weinberger.

Ted Koppel next interviewed Henry Kissinger. Kissinger remarked that the situation today was handled extremely well and that Bush's statement was reassuring. He noted that the Cabinet members were communicating in the situation room and that there was a functioning government in Washington. He concluded saying that the situation has been well and maturely handled.

Barbara Walters spoke to former President Ford in Tokyo. Mr. Ford said the news of the incident created a flashback for him and that he was able to speak to the situation room briefly today.

Late update report

Barry Sarafin reported from GWU hospital that serious questions remain for White House Press Secretary Jim Brady. A brain scan shows that the bullet that struck him fragmented.

Bettina Gregory reported from the U.S. District Court House that the suspected assailant, John W. Hinckley, was arraigned late Tuesday evening. Hinckley has been given two court-appointed attorneys and the courtroom was sealed off from reporters. Gregory reported that FBI Director William Webster was present at the courthouse and that the FBI was going to take Hinckley to an undisclosed location after the proceedings this evening.

WORLD REACTION TO SHOOTING

From Reuters News Service, March 30, 1981

In Moscow, TASS reported the shooting with a brief outline of the circumstances without making any other comment.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim condemned what he called, "a wanton act of terrorism," against President Reagan and sent a message wishing him a speedy recovery.

In Hong Kong, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington declined immediate comment; might make statement later.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a message to the President saying she prayed his injuries were not serious. Buckingham Palace says Queen Elizabeth also sent message.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Marc MacGuigan said, "I don't know how to react...I'm shocked."

French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing sent President a telegram conveying "warmest and most friendly wishes" for his full recovery and continuance of his leadership of the United States.

From Jerusalem, Israeli PM Menachem Begin cabled to wish the President a speedy recovery.

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Canada's Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan said today that threats were made against President Reagan's life during his visit to that country on March 10 and 11.

PM Trudeau, who was in Montreal on private business when informed of the attempt, said he had reacted "with a sense of deep distress and shock."

Tokyo stock exchange suspended trading in its foreign stock section for today only to avoid confusion over the assassination attempt.

New York Stock Exchange halted dealing because of the news.

Dollar and Tokyo Stock Exchange average both fell sharply.

MAJOR NEWSPAPER HEADLINES -- Tuesday, March 31, 1981

WALL STREET JOURNAL

"GUNMAN'S ATTACK: REAGAN SHOT IN CHEST ON WASHINGTON STREET, UNDERGOES SURGERY: Prognosis Called 'Excellent'; Press Aide James Brady and 2 Officers Hit: Gasps in the Senate Chamber" (Head w/2 sub-heads/A-1)

"STEADY STAND-IN: BUSH'S TEMPORARY ROLE IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE COURSE OF U.S. POLICY: He is a Well-Briefed Member of Reagan Inner Circle and Known for Loyalty: Touchy Relations with Haig" (Head w/2 sub-heads/A-1)

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"REAGAN SURVIVES GUNSHOT; OUTLOOK CALLED EXCELLENT: Three Others Wounded in D.C." (2 line banner w/1 sub-head/pic/A-1)

"THE SUSPECT: A YOUNG MAN OF PRIVILEGE"
(4-column head/pic/A-1)

"A SMILE, A WAVE; THEN 'ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE" (A-1)

THE WASHINGTON STAR

"REAGAN RALLIES SWIFTLY; GUNMAN IS DENIED BAIL: Brady Critical; Two Officers Wounded" (2-line banner w/1 sub-head/4 pics/A-1)

"ACCUSED ASSAILANT A DRIFTER" (A-1)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

"ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT CONTINUES PATTERN OF U.S. VIOLENCE: Incident Casts Doubt on Quick Return to Budget and Tax Cut Issues"
(Head w/1 sub-head/pic/A-1)

"MORAL ISSUES FOREMOST WITH AMERICAN VOTERS" (A-1)

"WALESA CALLS OFF STRIKE: POLAND EDGES PAST CRISIS"
(Head w/1 sub-head/A-1)



The White House NEWS SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1981, -- 6 a.m. edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL

"Reagan, In Good Spirit, Making a Fast Recovery" -- President Reagan is making a speedy recovery and takes time out to sign the milk bill and greet visitors. (Post/A-1)

"Reagan Staff Plan for Interim Rule: 'Business As Usual'" -- Administration will use experiences of Eisenhower Administration to maintain a "business as usual" approach to conducting government affairs. (Post/A-1)

"Brady Improves Dramatically" -- Press Secretary James Brady has regained consciousness but remains in critical condition. (Post/A-1)

"Pact Rejected: Threat of Lengthy Coal Strike Looms" -- United Mine Workers vote to defeat proposed contract, long strike seems likely. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

"Solidarity Votes in Bitter Debate to Cancel Strike" -- Solidarity trade union votes to call off general strike, but accuse Walesa of selling out union interests. (Post/A-1)

"Thai Generals Seize Power in Predawn Coup" -- A peaceful military coup has overthrown Thailand's year-old government of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond. (Post/A-1)

NETWORK NEWS (Tuesday Evening)

REAGAN -- Doing extremely well, signs milk bill and receives visitors. White House staff continues work on a "business as usual" basis.
(ABC, CBS, NBC-lead)

HINCKLEY -- Motive may have been obsession with actress.

MORNING NEWS: (WEDNESDAY MORNING)

James Baker will appear on the CBS Morning News (7:30 a.m.).
The NBC Today Show will interview Ed Meese (7:15 a.m.).

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This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff. For complete stories or other information, please call ext. 2950

NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN, IN GOOD SPIRITS, MAKING A FAST RECOVERY

President Reagan, cracking jokes through his first day of exercising authority from a hospital bed, was making an excellent recovery yesterday from a bullet fired into his chest, apparently by a former neo-Nazi who pulled the trigger in an attempt to impress a movie actress. The only somber moment in the President's cheerful day of recovery...came at 12:16 p.m., when White House doctor David Ruge told him that Press Secretary James S. Brady and two other men also had been shot. "Oh damn, Oh damn," Reagan responded, and his eyes filled with tears...Meanwhile, at the White House, Meese and Baker worked with Vice President Bush to convey the impression that the crisis had passed and that it was business as usual. Baker held a mid-afternoon news briefing in an attempt to deflate reports of new tension between Sec. Haig and senior White House advisers as a result of Haig's role during the tense hours before it was known that the President would come through his ordeal so well. (Lee Lescaze, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 51 inches)

REAGAN STAFF PLAN FOR INTERIM RULE: "BUSINESS AS USUAL"

Hours after Ronald Reagan was shot, even before the bullet was removed from his chest, the White House senior staff was drafting the blueprint for sustaining the momentum of the Reagan Administration while the President recovers from his wound. "Basically, the message is that this government is doing business as usual." Until the President is safely returned to the White House and fully back at work in the Oval Office, every public gesture and activity will be aimed at demonstrating that nothing fundamental has changed while he is away. As it happens, the Reagan White House had at its fingertips a handy guide from history -how the Eisenhower Administration maintained its equilibrium when Ike was hospitalized with a heart attack on Sept. 24, 1955. Late Monday afternoon, when the extent of Reagan's injury was not fully known, White House speechwriter Tony Dolan sent Robert M. Garrick, Meese's deputy, a memorandum. Dolan's memo summarized the approach of the White House staff after President Eisenhower's heart attack. In all these actions both Bush and the senior staff are careful to weigh their words, in the manner suggested by the Eisenhower staff experience, so that no one forms the impression that Bush has taken over as president. (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 30 inches)

LOVE LETTER HOLDS CLUE TO MOTIVE IN SHOOTING

The young loner charged with shooting President Reagan had a fixation for teen-age movie star Jodie Foster and attempted to assassinate the President in a grotesque attempt to get her attention, according to a letter found in his Washington hotel room. An unmailed letter was found in his hotel room here on the day he allegedly shot and wounded Reagan. "I will prove my love for you... through a historic act," Hickey reportedly wrote to Foster. The hand-scrawled, two-page letter indicated that Hinckley was going to shoot Reagan and that Hinckley himself might also be killed, according to sources. The letter also said that Hinckley had seen Foster's photographs many times and that he admired and loved her. (Athelia Knight and Neil Henry, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 61 inches)

BRADY IMPROVES DRAMATICALLY

Presidential Press Secretary James S. Brady regained consciousness but remained in critical condition in the intensive care unit at George Washington University Hospital Tuesday, after undergoing a 6 1/2 hour operation in which doctors removed a large portion of the right frontal lobe of his brain. Despite extensive destruction of tissue on the right side of his brain and some damage to the left frontal lobe, Brady's condition improved dramatically in the hours after surgery. He was awake, able to see, and able to move his right arm and leg when asked to, according to doctors at the hospital. (Susan Okie and Victor Cohn, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 23 1/2 inches)

HAIG'S ACTION AGAIN RAISE CONCERN OVER HIS CONDUCT

For the second time in two weeks, the actions of Sec. Haig have prompted questions inside and outside the Reagan Administration about the way he is conducting himself in office. Haig's latest problems stem ...through a private disagreement in the White House Situation Room with Sec. of Defense Weinberger. The dispute, according to one source, centered on Weinberger's displeasure with Haig's televised remarks and disagreement over the nature of the increased readiness procedures that were ordered for U.S. military forces around the world. As the controversy became a matter of public discussion Tuesday, senior White House assistants moved with swiftness to praise Haig and minimize the political damage. Presidential aides also minimized the nature of the disagreements between Haig and Weinberger, conceding that there were some disagreements -- some "sparks," as one called it -- but emphasizing that there was never a boisterous "row" between the two Reagan Cabinet members. (Martin Schram and Michael Getler, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 35 inches)

A DRIFTER'S GRIM MISSION

Long Bus Ride Leads to Scene of Reagan Shooting

John W. Hinckley Jr., the man accused of shooting President Reagan, arrived in Washington shortly after noon last Sunday, stepping down from the 5:30 a.m. Greyhound express bus from Pittsburg into a seedy terminal on New York Avenue N.W. That trip had taken seven hours, the last leg of a cross-country journey that began four days earlier in Los Angeles and ended at this side-door entrance to the nation's capital, where Hinckley disembarked -- a chubby, glassy-eyed drifter in the need of a shave, according to those who say they saw him. (Mike Sager and Eugene Robinson, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 29 inches)

GOP MODERATES FAIL IN BID TO REDUCE BUDGET CUTS

An effort by moderate Republicans to rescue nearly \$18 from President Reagan's budget cleaver failed Tuesday when enough Democrats voted with the President to give him one of his clearest victories yet in the congressional budget battle. By a vote of 59 to 40, with 16 Democrats joining most Republicans in upholding Reagan's position, the Senate rejected a proposal by Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.) to restore \$973 million that Reagan proposed to cut from a variety of social programs. The Administration's interest in defeating Chafee's proposal was underscored when Vice President Bush, who rarely presides over the Senate, took his chair for the vote. Because Republicans had maintained a high degree of unity in opposing the Democratic initiatives, the breakaway effort by the Republican moderates were viewed as the best chance for restoring money for social programs in the first phase of Senate action on Reagan's budget propos-

als. As such, it had the support of Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) and other Democratic leaders. Most of Chafee's Republican supporters came from the Northeast and Midwest, giving the effort a regional cast, although the Chafee forces did their best to deny it. (Helen Dewar, Washington Post, 4/1, A2, 17 inches)

PACT REJECTED; THREAT OF LENGTHY COAL STRIKE LOOMS

The specter of a long strike looms over the nation's soft-coal industry after miners scorned a proposed contract that would have paid them up to \$111 a day and ended one of their shortest walkouts in years. UMW President Church reportedly was unwilling to concede defeat. But Church, having just returned from the coalfields, was unavailable for comment. In a last-ditch campaign swing across the country to endorse the contract, Church quoted B.R. Brown--chief negotiator for the coal operators - as saying, "If you vote it down, call me back in two or three weeks." (Gene Grabowski, AP 4:23)

TEEN-AGE BOY IS 21st ATLANTA VICTIM

Timothy Hill became Atlanta's 21st black child murder victim Tuesday as medical examiners positively identified the body found floating Monday afternoon in the Chattahoochee River as the 13-year-old his mother called "a good little, hard-working boy." Police kept Timothy, missing since March 13, off the official list of missing and murdered children because he had a history as a runaway, and because Atlanta police were still investigating reports that he had been spotted several times by friends. (Art Harris, Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 23 inches)

U.S. OFFICIALS PREPARING TOKYO AUTO-IMPORT TALKS

The Administration is preparing to send an interagency group of officials to Tokyo next week to discuss with the Japanese government the problems of the U.S. auto industry and how the Administration plans to help it, according to Administration sources. No agreement is expected to result from the several days of discussions, sources said. Meanwhile, Sen. Danforth Tuesday asked Bob Dole to speed up action on his bill placing three-year import quotas on Japanese automobiles. Sources said they didn't know what response, if any, the Japanese would make to the American's presentation. (Jane Seaberry-Washington Post-4/1-D7)

FARM PROGRAM UNVEILED ON HILL, MEETS PANEL MEMBER'S PROTESTS

Secretary Block, on Capitol Hill to unveil his 1981 farm bill proposals, got a class-action reminder Tuesday of the sensitivity of congressional toes when stepped on. And through it all, just about everyone fussed at Block about the Administration's refusal to lift the partial embargo on grain shipments to the Soviet Union. Block agreed the embargo has undermined farm markets, but he repeated his optimism the Administration won't leave it on forever. (Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, 4/1, D7)

CARTER SAYS REAGAN SHOULD STAY IN PUBLIC EYE

Former President Carter says it's the duty of the President to be in the public eye, and the assassination attempt against President Reagan should not make him withdraw. Carter, assessing the response of the U.S.S.S. and WH to the shooting, said, "The situation was handled well and the exchange of command was handled very well." (AP 4:08)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOLIDARITY VOTES IN BITTER DEBATE TO CANCEL STRIKE

Leaders of the Solidarity trade union voted Tuesday evening to call off its plans for a general strike after a tumultuous session in which militants assailed labor leader Lech Walesa for allegedly selling out union interests. But after a bitter debate, the union's National Consultative Commission voted 24 to four in favor of calling off the strike, which was scheduled for today but was postponed with a last-minute agreement between the government and Solidarity. Six delegates abstained in the voting Tuesday. The decision was reported immediately by the official news agency PAP. The agency said delegates were still discussing whether to call off a state of strike readiness and said it depended on the assessment union leaders made of the agreement Walesa signed in Warsaw last night. A Soviet television commentary Tuesday evening said the situation in Poland remained "very tense" as some Solidarity members continued to demand a strike. ("Reuters", Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 18 inches)

Warsaw Pact armies were reported still holding maneuvers in and around Poland. In Washington, the State Department said 18 divisions of Soviet and other Warsaw Pact forces remained in an increased state of readiness in Poland and neighboring countries. "They don't seem to have stood down their preparations even though the Polish labor federation has called off the general strike," said one Pentagon analyst. (Thomas Netter, AP, 3:59)

THAI GENERALS SEIZE POWER IN PREDAWN COUP

Thai generals overthrew the year-old government of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond in an apparently peaceful military coup Wednesday and established a Revolutionary Committee to rule the country, Radio Thailand announced. The announcement said the generals, considered pro-Western as was Prem, seized power "because of the deteriorating situation,"...Gen. Sant Chitpatima, deputy commander-in-chief of the Army, heads the Revolutionary Committee and Prem has resigned as prime minister and commander-in-chief of the Army, the announcement said. The constitution was abolished and the Cabinet and Parliament were dissolved by the committee, which took over at 2 a.m., according to the broadcast at 5 a.m. ("AP", Washington Post, 4/1, A1, 16 inches)

AGEE SAYS WASHINGTON FALSIFIED PROOF OF MOSCOW-SALVADOR LINK

Former CIA agent Philip Agee says the U.S. forged evidence of Soviet support for a guerrilla insurgency in El Salvador to justify a Vietnam-like "intervention in El Salvador and Latin America." Tuesday, Agee charged there were translation errors and discrepancies in the so-called "white book," a series of guerrilla documents the State Dept. said proved Moscow and Cuban and Vietnamese allies supplied arms to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador. He charged the purpose of falsification "is to prepare public opinion in the U.S. for intervention in El Salvador and Latin America to eradicate the Vietnamese syndrome." Agee conceded there was a discrepancy between his argument "The CIA prepared false documents" and his accusation the State Dept. drew conclusions not supported by the documents presented. (Alison Smale, UPI, 3:53)

KIRKPATRICK SAYS FLAP OVER SOUTH AFRICA WAS "HIGHLY TRAUMATIC"

In an interview here, (United Nations Ambassador Jeane J.) Kirkpatrick maintained repeatedly that she was being pilloried not only for an innocent mistake but for something that was not even a technical violation of policy, because the Reagan Administration has not yet decided that it will continue what has been U.S. policy since 1962 in refusing official contact with highranking South African military officials. Her remarks suggested that, if nothing else, reaction to the visit of Van der Westhuizen and three other South African officers has helped prod the Administration into announcing some portions of an Africa policy long "under review" and undefined. As enunciated by Kirkpatrick, it is a policy that will in substance resemble a return to the kind of "communication" with the white government practiced under the Nixon and Ford Administrations -- keeping criticism of South African policies private on the theory that nothing is to be gained by public denunciation. (Karen DeYoung, Washington Post, 4/1, A3, 31 inches)

U.S. TO TEST NEW POLICY FOR AFRICA

A senior Reagan Administration policymaker will travel to Africa next month to test the waters for a new U.S. policy toward the region, the WH announced Tuesday. The Crocker trip, coming after the completion of "the initial phase" of a U.S. policy review toward the continent, is intended to broaden the new Administration's consultations with Africa and sketch the outlines of emerging positions, officials said. The U.S. is seeking to strengthen communications and understanding with "all Africa states," according to the WH statement. This evidently includes S. Africa, where the Administration has been taking a less hostile line than the Carter administration did. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, 4/1, A4)

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TODAY'S EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS--APRIL 1, 1981

REAGAN -- "The assassination attempt Monday afternoon left those who share Reagan's dream cold with fear at the futility of going on without Reagan...Nobody could guess what would happen to this Administration's motive force during protracted convalescence for its chief. Far from being the irrelevancy of his caricatures, Reagan is the vital spark that moves his Administration...Even if Bush, with vastly more governmental experience than Reagan, fully agreed with Reagan's ideological revolutionary goals, he could not match Reagan's ideological commitment...That is what makes the President personally irreplaceable if his Administration truly is to change the nation. Confined to G.W.U. Hospital, his Administration's vital force is depleted. If he had been killed or incapacitated, its radical quality would have ended."

(Rowland Evans & Robert Novak, Washington Post)

"The honeymoon has ended and a new legend has been born. The gunfire that shattered the stillness of a rainy Washington Monday afternoon broke not just four bodies...It also created a new hero in Reagan, the chipper gipper who took a .22 caliber slug in his chest but walked into the emergency room on his own power and joked with the anxious doctors on his way into surgery...What happened to

Reagan on Monday is the stuff of which legends are made...As long as people remember the hospitalized President joshing his doctors and nurses--and they will remember--no critic will be able to portray Reagan as a cruel or callous or heartless man...This society, which stubbornly resists even the most modest effort to discipline its own appetite for handguns, had once again paid the price for its folly...I have a chilling thought that mocks the merry mood of the Grid-iron dinner..Next year-God knows what awaits us."(David Broder, Washington Post)

"What is worth some thoughtful attention now are the political implications of the attempt on the President's life...One result is likely to be the restoration of the "Imperial Presidency." A wounded Ronald Reagan will, for a time, be immune from political attack...There's danger in that--a danger that the President himself can reduce by recognizing that the enhanced authority and power he gained from the attempt on his life must not mean that his policies are no longer subject to debate. America is grateful that his life was spared, and wishes him a full and speedy recovery...But the national outpouring of sympathy does not confer infallibility. I hope he knows that, too."

(William Raspberry, Washington Post)

HANDGUNS -- "Let's not talk about gun controls...Because "gun controls" can mean anything or nothing...We agree on the law enforcement aspects, but believe that handguns...should be taken off the open market...True, just as all the narcotics laws in the world haven't stopped drug traffic, there is no way to stop handgun killings or assassinations of national leaders. But right now--once again--it is a question of focusing serious attention on the subject. And if this week's events do not do it, you have to ask yourself what in God's name will?"

(Washington Post)

"We should recognize that people have a right to own guns, but do not have the right to use them criminally. Moreover, we think that people who are found in possession of guns while committing a crime or participating in a violent dispute should lose both the gun and their freedom...The real problem, however, is to motivate the criminal justice system to take these or better laws seriously.. Available data suggest that a person convicted of illegally carrying or possessing a handgun is generally treated leniently. This is a serious mistake: A person in a public place with a gun and without a permit is often a person looking for trouble...Real progress in reducing gun violence almost certainly requires methods--aggressive patrolling, undercover operations, tougher sentences--that liberals instinctively dislike. We think, however, there is no way around these tough choices, and it is time we face up to them."

(James W. Wilson & Mark H. Moore, Washington Post)

BRADY -- "Ronald Reagan's press relations have been among the best that we can remember of any President...It has been owing in large part to Mr. Reagan's own easy affability as a campaigner and as a President and also, in large part, to that affability as it has been reflected in James S. Brady's personality and enterprise...As Mr. Brady lies wounded in G.W. Hospital, our gratification at his progress only partially mitigates our rage at the cruelty of his fate...The President's press aide is a real man, a whole man and a fine man. What has happened to him is an unspeakable outrage."

(Washington Post)

Network News SummaryTuesday evening, March 31, 1981

REAGAN--CBS reports Reagan is doing extraordinarily well and signs milk price supports to prove it. Brady's progress is extraordinary but his future uncertain. McCarthy and Delehanty in good condition. Late afternoon WH press releases say Reagan is sitting up in hospital, reading newspapers, eating gelatine. Hospital aid says Reagan collapsed after entering the hospital. Reagan receives visitors. Tears well in his eyes and he says oh damn, oh damn when hearing of Brady's condition. Bush shown during day and reinforces desired message of business as usual. WH insists administration was always poised for contingencies. CBS's Dan Rather reviews Haig's power struggle over crisis management. CBS's Diane Sawyer says Haig appeared at the WH press office on his own initiative, and surprised and annoyed Meese, Baker, Bush and other WH officials, who say this opens up old wounds. WH sources say Haig argued with Weinberger, and State spokesman Dyess says Haig was trying to project continuity of government. CBS's Phil Jones says Sen. Baker is disturbed that Haig would have been in charge, and other Congressional sources say Haig is in trouble.

ABC reviews yesterdays and todays events in similar order. ABC follows Bush to Ambassador of Netherlands meeting. Shows Sen. Laxalt saying that freedoms in America cannot be compromised and Reagan will not be a prisoner of the situation. Sen. Roth encouraged by Brady's improvement. ABC's Frank Reynolds says the WH conducts all out effort to put Haig's conduct of yesterday into perspective. Speaks and Bush shown saying there are no problems. ABC's Barrie Dunsmore concludes this can hardly help Haig's image or his future performance. Secy. Smith says no political motive for the shooting and the incident is not likely to change administration's gun control position. ABC's Peter Jennings says other countries are now painfully aware of U.S. crime/violence statistics and are wondering why a country so well endowed is plagued. France's D'Estang says U.S. image is not tarnished because violent individuals are everywhere.

U.S.S.S.--NBC opens by reviewing the same events. NBC adds the secret service is investigating access to the President. NBC's Marvin Kalb says WH tries to blur conflict because WH must appear calm. All networks present picture of WH in control of reigns of power.

HINCKLEY--Networks review everything about Hinckley. (about 6-8 minutes each) Topics include his upbringing, his older brother's relationship with one of Bush's sons, his stunned classmates who say he was well liked, and how something went wrong down the road. Hinckley's motive may be an obsession with an actress who Hinckley claims was snubbed by Reagan.

CRIME--FBI releases figures that violent crime is up 13%, major crime up 10% and crime in Miami up 67%, over the last decade. ABC's scheduled special segment on handgun crime is modified to reflect reactions to yesterday. Things aren't likely to change because of well financed handgun lobby. O'Neill and Jimmy Carter say no change is likely.

STOCKS--Reagan's recovery sends stocks up 11.71.

ATLANTA--21st missing black child found. (CBS-2,ABC-3,NBC-2)

THAILAND--Government overthrown by military. (CBS-3)

POLAND--Workers are divided but vote to call off strike, but refuse to ratify agreement. Soviet maneuvers increase. (CBS-4,ABC-5,NBC-3)

DEATH--Founder of Readers Digest, Wallace, dead. (CBS-6,NBC-4)

The White House Communications Agency will play back a 56-minute composite of the network news Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on channel 6.

YESTERDAY'S NEWS TODAY
A SUMMARY OF PERTINENT ARTICLES FROM MAJOR U.S. DAILIES
* * * * *

MORAL ISSUES FOREMOST WITH AMERICAN VOTERS

Americans are far less divided into "liberals" and "conservatives" over traditional political issues than is generally believed, according to a study of American political, social, and religious attitudes, conducted by Research and Forecasts, Inc. Controversial "moral" issues tend to divide Americans most, i.e., abortion, homosexuality and drug use. But only 24 percent consistently take strict stands on all such issues, with most Americans evaluating each moral issue by individual circumstances. At least seven out of 10 Americans believe the courts are too concerned with the rights of criminals, that the government has too much power over the lives of the average citizen; that the U.S. has been too willing to accept refugees; and that social security taxes should be increased if necessary to provide adequate incomes for older people.
(Richard J. Cattani, Christian Science Monitor, 3/31)

REAGAN'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM
GATHERS TO SCAN TROUBLE SPOTS -- ESPECIALLY POLAND

Administration's new crisis management team gathered yesterday to monitor the world's trouble spots -- above all the volatile situation in Poland -- after President Reagan was wounded in an assassination attempt. "We have informed our friends abroad of the situation," Secretary Haig said at the WH. "There are absolutely no alert measures that are necessary at this time or contemplated." With Mr. Haig in the Situation Room at the WH were, among others, Secretary Weinberger, Secretary Regan and Attorney General French Smith. Haig's intent clearly was to reflect calm during the uncertainty over the president's condition.
(Henry Trewhitt, Baltimore Sun, 3/31)

TERREL BELL NAVIGATING ROUGH SEAS

In the two months since he took the helm of the department that some cynics have labeled the Reagan administration's "Titanic," Secretary Bell has sailed some very rough seas. Bell has fought unsuccessfully to bring some of his own lieutenants on board at the Department of Education. And while he expected the ax to fall heavily on his agency's \$15B budget, sources close to him say he did not anticipate what has turned out to be a virtual death blow to what many educators see as the federal government's most successful education programs.
(Alison Muscatine, Washington Star, 3/29)

MAVERICK FRANCE SHIFTS GEARS ON FOREIGN POLICY,
LINES UP WITH U.S.

After 20 years as the naughty boy of the Western alliance, France is beginning to appear to U.S. officials as the staunchest U.S. ally -- at least for the near future. Some of the officials -- and some Frenchmen -- believe that changes in President Giscard d'Estaing's approach to world politics over the past few months are only election tactics. He faces the voters April 26 in a bid for a new seven-year term. Others say that the increasing power of the Soviets have given Paris and Washington a common interest. France has built up its defense budget by a steady 3 percent a year in real terms and supports U.S. plans to postpone a summit meeting with Moscow. (Hal Piper, Baltimore Sun, 3/31)

ONCE AGAIN, TELEVISION'S PICTURES TELL THE STORY BETTER THAN ITS WORDS

Yesterday's was the sort of coverage the television news people would rather not be proud of. But the startling technology of TV news again was able to transform the nation's views into eyewitnesses at history, even if it was American history of the worst sort, the kind written in blood. Much of the reporting of the breaking aspects of the story was of the kind that validates the value of distance between event and report. In their rush to keep the nation abreast of every detail of the story, the TV news people often lost the facts under a pile of rumors and unconfirmed reports, many of which turned out to be untrue. ABC lost some of the edge it may have gained with the speed of its visual coverage in the grating presence of Frank Reynolds, whose highly emotional style was ill-suited to handling the roller coaster tension of the events. AT NBC, John Chancellor was glaringly absent until his regular stint on the Nightly News. Ed Newman was stolid but reliable for much of the day. Dan Rather filled Mr. Cronkite's chair at CBS with energy if not the solid presence-amid-crisis that was Cronkite's. But if the mistakes of instant reporting undercut the overall quality of the networks' coverage of yesterday's events, nothing could diminish the power of their pictures or their all encompassing presence.

(Bill Carter, Baltimore Sun, 3/31)

WATT: A COLLISION COURSE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The new Interior Department secretary has moved forward rapidly with proposals for sweeping policy changes that will have profound effects on the way the nation manages its public lands and its natural resources. He has said that he intends to accelerate the development of resources on federal lands by eliminating protective regulations that he considers excessive. He has sought to expedite oil and gas exploration off the California coast and in Alaska's Arctic Wildlife Range. He has proposed relaxing strip-mine standards for land reclamation. And, he has called for an end to acquisition of land for national parks and recreation areas.

(Roger Cohn, Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/31)

HAIG'S "SHOW THE FLAG" TRIP TO MIDEAST: PRIMARY FOCUS ON THREE SENSITIVE AREAS

Secretary Haig's trip to the Mideast this week is to an area intimately tied up with the U.S. economy (Gulf oil fields), political philosophy (containment of communism), and ethno-religious heritage (Israel, Lebanon, Greece, among others). Yet at no time has the administration's approach seemed so fraught with ambiguities, confusion, opposition, and even apparent contradictions. At present three major areas are sensitive to every move in State. The West Bank: Ronald Reagan appeared to reverse longstanding American policy by describing new Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Lebanon: Although the U.S. continues to support Israel's right to defend its territory, it appears to be increasingly irritated with the actions of a renegade Lebanese officer who is supplied, backed up and to some extent directed by Israel. U.S. bases: President Reagan maintains that the U.S. should have military bases on the mainland in the Middle East in order to enhance security. But the question is, where will these bases go?

(John Yemma, Christian Science Monitor, 3/31)

EDITORIALS/COMMENTARY

CRISIS MANAGEMENT -- "For the moment, Mr. Haig's loss has been Mr. Bush's gain, though the Vice President apparently did not push for the crisis job or the other diplomatic assignments he has landed, such as heading preparations for the Western economic summit in Canada this summer. The other obvious gainers in terms of the intangible coin of political influence were Edwin Meese 3d, the President's counselor, and James A. Baker 3d, the White House chief of staff. In their first test of strength with the most renowned member of the Reagan Cabinet, they demonstrated that in spite of all Mr. Reagan's talk of Cabinet government, power remains strongly centered at the White House. It is surprising that Mr. Haig, President Nixon's chief of staff and thus familiar with such infighting, should have underestimated their power. The White House lavished praise on the Secretary of State late in the week. Yet the price for not having settled the affair far more quickly and quietly has been to show disarray in an Administration that has heretofore prized harmony and unity, and to open political wounds that will take time to heal."

(Hedrick Smith, New York Times, 3/29)

"Ronald Reagan has made his decision; now let him enforce it...For the Reagan White House has not developed either the structure or the talents required for managing foreign policy. The Haig State Department ...Bush, in the past, has generally performed better than expected. Maybe he can become a screen for crisis management by the Allen staff. If that succeeds, there will be no complaints from this quarter. But my guess is that authority will gravitate to State anyhow, and that the true outcome of the present scuffle is a legacy of doubt as to who's in charge."

(Joseph Kraft, Washington Post, 3/29)

"If political science were a real science--which it ain't--the mathematical formula that would explain last week's strange case of Alexander M. Haig would be: $E+WHE=T$. Ego plus White House Experience equals Trouble...But a less-than-skillful president is liable to let the tensions build to the point of explosion, costing him the services of able, energetic and experienced people. Carter lost Califano that way, and Reagan last week was on the verge of losing Haig. Hiring such men in the first place is a risk. But good presidents are those who can make the risky decisions work."

(David S. Broder, Washington Post, 3/29)

"...ensconced in the seat of power, the man [Haig] is dangerous. Somebody better pay attention because Haig is going to get people killed--a lot of people--for no good purpose at all. He is the perfect example of the old men who dream up wars for the young to fight."

(Gainesville Sun, 3/24)

"So far, the public does not have a clear notion of who is in charge. Secretary Haig has blundered in escalating a management decision into a public power struggle, one which he brought on by overzealously guarding the table of organization and his own turf....In recent crises, the national security adviser has been the manager, backed, of course, by the president. Now, an elected official and a well-qualified vice president decides to take over."

(The Oregonian, 3/27)

"The only lasting legacy in this quarrel is the enhanced position of the Vice Presidency and continued erosion of its Throttlebottom image. Just as Jimmy Carter seemed secure and trusting with Walter Mondale, so Reagan seems with Bush. This development is important politically and constitutionally. When Reagan chose Bush for a position of line responsibility over Haig, he chose someone he cannot dismiss. Haig can be replaced tomorrow. If Reagan wants to fire Bush, he has to have him impeached." (Boston Globe, 3/26)

"Both George Bush and Alexander M. Haig Jr. have had a knack for being in the right place at the right time during their long and rising careers in government. But Bush seems to know better what his place is and what he should do when he gets there. That may explain why Haig is nursing the wounds of backstage battles and wondering about his role as Secretary of State, while Bush has been given more power and responsibility than any Vice President in modern times." (Saul Friedman, Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/29)

"Despite all the attendant hysterics, there is nothing more to the great Haig-Bush fight-to-the-death power struggle story than this: Ronald Reagan decided George Bush will serve as his deputy and stand-in. Alexander Haig didn't like it. Reagan said too bad. And everybody went back to work...What must be remembered about Bush emerging the victor in this great power struggle is that he never once struggled. 'I've not discussed my role,' he told me in an earlier interview. 'I've felt that is one way to diminish what role I have and what future roles I expect to have.' He has managed his first 'crisis' very well." (Michael Kilian, Chicago Times, 3/29)

"So the single voice with which the Reagan Administration intended to speak to the world has kept saying nothing more urgent than 'I quit.' For a Secretary of State to threaten resignation eight or nine times in 65 days must be a record. For him to invoke the ultimate weapon for no discernible policy reason plainly signals the end of the vaunted system of 'Cabinet Government.' For the White House then to cast the problem as a jurisdictional conflict between Mr. Haig and Vice President Bush is foolishly to ignite the primary campaign of 1984. And for the President to blame these multiple embarrassments on the press is just silly." (New York Times, 3/27)

"The result today is that Mr. Reagan emerges with a clearly firmer hand on the helm of his own Administration, and Mr. Haig's rush for the throne has been slowed by a significant public stumble. There should be consolation in that, but it would be more heartening if it were accompanied by the confidence that the Administration's machinery for dealing with the workaday challenges of foreign policy had yet been put together in a professional, organized and responsive way." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/25)

ENERGY -- "Among its territorial aggressions, the State Department has now recaptured control of international energy policy from the Energy Department. That little coup has been accomplished quietly. But it carries large implications for the American response to the next energy crisis...When will that crisis arrive? No one can say, but experience suggests that it will come without warning. The damage that it inflicts can be limited by the skill with which the national response is managed. Historically, the State Department's record in this area is not a reassuring one... It's not a matter of personalities, or personal competence. The State Department ought not to be the country's policymaker and negotiator on energy for the same reason that it ought not to be permitted to dominate the talks with Japan on imported autos. State is not

well equipped to manage matters that are preponderantly the country's internal business...at the first tweak on that oil line from the Persian Gulf, the Reagan administration is going to see why its predecessors decided that they needed a strong Department of Energy." (Washington Post, 3/29)

BUDGET -- "It's not hard to spot a gaping hole in President Reagan's anti-inflation and economic productivity package. It's that sacred cow of the Internal Revenue Code: the unlimited deduction for interest payments on mortgages that homeowners can take on their income-tax returns...Mr. Reagan's budget proposals would cut the subsidies for the poor, but leave those for the well-to-do inviolate. Not only is the policy inhumane: It is subgrade economics because it ignores the ferocious inflationary push that housing now exerts through its privileged place in federal tax law." (Baltimore Sun, 3/23)

"The budget ax already has fallen on some federally-funded programs in Los Angeles. And KNX wonders if the Reagan Administration remembers it promised more than amputation to cure this country's ills...President Reagan campaigned on the premise that Americans will do better for themselves what the government has been doing for them. So now the government is backing off training (CETA) or hiring the unskilled and disadvantaged. But who is stepping forward to fill the continuing need? Why hasn't the Reagan Administration launched a massive campaign encouraging private help as public aid shrivels. KNX challenges local business and industry nationwide to demonstrate that this country has more than a scalpel for a heart." (KNX Newsradio Editorial, Los Angeles, 3/18)

"There are now hard numbers where before there could only be informed guesses about what the Reagan budget will do the nation's poor. The answer: It will hurt the working poor most sharply, often wiping out the incentive for them to continue working. Many would be just as well off on welfare. These are tragic prospects in human terms, unwise as social policy and bizarre coming from an administration that says, at least, that it champions work over the dole... If the White House won't adjust its budget cuts to be socially more sensible, Democrats in the U.S. House ought to work to stall the whole process until changes can be negotiated with the Republican Senate." (Dayton Daily News, 3/23)

WASTE/FRAUD -- "If Mr. Reagan is truly serious about his commitment to making government efficient and effective, no concern can get a higher priority than corruption, both public and private. To fulfill that commitment will demand resolute funding, support and coordination of the work not only of the new council, but by the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service and every other device of law-enforcement available. To fail in that commitment will guarantee that those who stand eternally ready to corrupt government and all it touches for their own profit or power will prevail. That would make hollow mockery of every other administration effort to make government efficient and effective." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/29)

LEGAL SERVICES -- "It is heartening to see the organized bar rallying to the defense of the Federal Legal Services program for poor people. The outcry by the American Bar Association and various state associations has already had some effect in Congress. The Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources has broken with President Reagan, voting at least to let the program continue, though with only a third of its present funds. That is progress, but hardly enough....Lawyers recognized the value of Legal Services years ago. Congress needs to heed their advice now." (New York Times, 3/27)

"...Reagan is right to want to cut what is not essential from the federal budget. For too long the federal government has attempted to do too much for too many. But since we live in a society that places a high value on justice, and since legal aid has proved to be an effective method of securing justice, the Legal Services Corporation is essential. This is one program Congress should not cut." (Shreveport Journal, 3/25)

VETERANS -- "The Reagan administration is on shaky ground when it proposes to eliminate \$12 million for funding for counseling centers for Vietnam veterans. ...We believe it would be a mistake to lock up these centers where Vietnam veterans can mingle with their peers to talk about what life was like over there, receive counseling services and feel that somebody cares. Scores of veterans here have been helped. It would be premature to halt this worthy program now. The price is small." (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 3/25)

PUBLIC HOUSING -- "The Raygun Administration is zapping the nation's public housing, home for the nation's poorest families, and in the process burning a large hole in its 'social safety net.' Unless the fast-draw, now-you-see-it, now-you-don't Raygun budgeteers holster their pistols, the quality of life in the nation's public housing projects--such as it is--could degenerate quickly." (Boston Globe, 3/28)

TRANSPORTATION -- "In mass transit, Amtrak and Conrail it is time for changes, but not for abandonment or drastic curtailment of federal support. There is talk in the Congress of giving transit authorities discretion in using federal funds for operation or capital purposes according to local needs. Transit stamps or vouchers to help the poor cope with rising fares are another concept getting attention. The need, through better targeting and new approaches, is to affirm and strengthen the federal government's commitment to public transportation." (Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/30)

"Stephen Berger, chairman of the United States Railway Association, suggests that Conrail deserves one more chance to balance its books. He is right. This time, though, the attempt should be strengthened by the clear understanding that time is running out. Congress should honor the spirit of its agreement with labor and offer generous financial incentives for voluntary retirements. The rail unions should face economic realities and accept work rules that will reduce average incomes. It has all been tried before, but there can now be one big difference. Congress has been too willing to forgive failure in the past; even without reform, workers got paid and shippers got served. This time, the public will support a last-time notice, and there is a good chance the message will get through." (New York Times, 3/30)

WATT -- "In the two months Secretary of the Interior James Watt has been in office, it has become clear that while he may have 'hit the ground running,' he is running in the wrong direction....Unless he alters his course, Mr. Watt's place in history may be closer to Blackbeard the Pirate than a guardian of the public trust. Instead of operating on the basis of public stewardship, Mr. Watt views public assets as opportunities for short-term exploitation for the enrichment of special interests--including those which he represented in his previous position as head of the Mountain States Legal Foundation." (Huey D. Johnson, Washington Star, 3/25)

CETA -- "CETA was an obvious first target for the administration because, unlike most social programs, it is not protected by an organized group of professional workers who stand to lose their own jobs. The people who hold CETA jobs don't organize letter-writing campaigns. The only way their loss will be detected is in higher welfare and unemployment counts, higher local taxes and fewer community services." (Washington Post, 3/29)

FOREIGN POLICY -- "...There are good reasons for standing firm and united against Soviet belligerence, and European pacifism hardly seems to be a realistic response. But lately, certain strategic thinkers have begun to posit the opposite assumption: namely, that the West could actually win a nuclear exchange with the Soviet bloc. Such a radical departure from the strategy of mutually assured destruction has awakened the old fear of nuclear holocaust, which for over a decade had largely been put out of mind by reasonable people." (Shreveport Journal, 3/25)

ZIMBABWE -- "The Reagan administration has wisely decided to give \$225 million in foreign aid to black-ruled Zimbabwe over the next three years. It may not be enough, but it is more than the U.S. has provided before, and it signals to Zimbabwe and other black south African countries that this nation supports their struggles to overcome centuries of white colonial rule and establish independent, multi-racial societies." (Charlotte Observer, 3/27)

NUCLEAR -- "Nuclear proliferation is a foreign policy issue the Reagan administration is yet to address....Is the Reagan administration prepared to assume a forceful international role in preventing nuclear proliferation? Will it talk tough to European allies who seem less concerned than they should be about the evident danger of supplying countries like Iraq and Pakistan with the wherewithal to build atomic bombs? We must hope so." (Boston Herald American, 3/26)

CHINA -- "Recently...there have been welcome signs that President Reagan is heeding sound advice concerning the strategic value of Washington's rapprochement with Peking....Four years ago Fidel Castro told Barbara Walters, with considerable chagrin: 'My evaluation is that you have in China one of your best allies.' It is to be hoped that the Reagan team will be able to listen and learn from our Chinese allies, even if to do so means jettisoning some of Reagan's own, most treasured right-wing shibboleths." (Boston Globe, 3/28)

"...Apparently the Reagan Administration has recognized what finally had become obvious to its predecessors: In America's global confrontation with the Soviet Union, there are advantages in maintaining good relations with the world's most-populous nation, China." (Miami Herald, 3/25)

SOUTH AFRICA -- "It's also time to question the direction that African foreign policy seems to be taking. Not long ago, National Security Adviser Richard Allen said future U.S. relations with South Africa would be determined strictly on the basis of self-interest, not on traditional opposition to South African apartheid. Allen's statement, profoundly disturbing to black Africa, contrasted with assurances by the State Department that U.S. policy was still under review. The question now is not only whether there's a new approach to southern Africa, but who has the leading role in developing it." (Newsday, 3/25)

NATO -- "Richard Allen's recent expression of concern about 'pacifist sentiments' in Western Europe drew additional attention to a problem that has caused uneasiness among allied leaders for months. A good many citizens of NATO countries do not accept the need to maintain a realistic counter-balance to the nuclear forces of the Soviet Union....the principle of maintaining a strong stance against Soviet pressure is such a longstanding fixture of American policy that it is hardly remarkable for the national security adviser to point it out."
(Washington Star, 3/29)

SEA LAW -- "President Reagan has made his first mistake in national security affairs. By putting a 'hold' on the UN Law of the Sea negotiations, he is giving our opponents an opening to cripple the mobility of our armed forces. The potential for future trouble is immense....Our fundamental national oceans interest is strategic freedom of movement. Oceans mining may be financially important to the three large U.S. companies that urged the president to halt the treaty. Mining is of miniscule importance, however, compared to unhampered deployment of our Air Force and Navy over and across the seas. The sooner President Reagan and his advisers realize this, the better."
(Union, Jacksonville, 3/25)

AUTO IMPORTS -- "American economists and European leaders have been expressing increasing concern that auto industry protectionism could set off an international trade war, to the potentially severe detriment of U.S. exporting industries and the world economy. Should that happen, should political expediency win in the fight over import quotas, millions of Americans--and not just new car buyers--would suffer the economic consequences." (Los Angeles Times, 3/25)

CIA -- "President Reagan deserves commendation for resisting suggestions that the Central Intelligence Agency be given authority to snoop on American citizens in their own country....Reagan's decision not to allow the CIA to function in this country is a sign that he realizes what can happen when government agencies are given too much power. He is to be applauded and encouraged to maintain his vigilance."
(Des Moines Sunday Register, 3/22)

PRESS -- "...what some newspapers are doing when it comes to covering Reagan-omics is outrageous...In the end, only the truly wealthy can survive and prosper in inflationary times. Therefore, it's fatuous to criticize a program aimed at curbing inflation as being tilted in favor of the rich. Honest dialogue and reportage of it is critical. Lack thereof is a far greater long-term threat to the economically disadvantaged than anything the Reagan plan has to offer."
(Jerry Heaster, Kansas City Star, 3/22)

WH REDECORATING -- "Archibald Cox, the former Watergate prosecutor, came out swinging last week on the heavy participation of oilmen in Nancy Reagan's little project to refurbish the White House...Mr. Cox's comments were well taken...The Reagans should give back not only the oil contributions but the others as well, for who knows what interests the other contributors may have. If the White House truly needs fixing up, even in tight times the taxpayers are the appropriate people to pay for it."
(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/29)

MAJOR NEWSPAPER HEADLINES -- Wednesday, April 1, 1981

NEW YORK TIMES

"REAGAN, MAKING GOOD RECOVERY, SIGNS A BILL; WHITE HOUSE WORKING, BUSH ASSURES SENATE, Haig Pictured In a Key Role, Administration Hoping to Guard Effectiveness"

(6 column banner w/2 subs)

"POLISH UNION VOTES TO ENDORSE ACCORD AND CANCELS STRIKE: But Walesa Is Accused of Yielding to Government by Accepting Compromise in the Talks"
(Head w/sub)

"LETTERS HINT SUSPECT ACTED OUT FANTASY"

"MEETING AT HOSPITAL: Senior Aides Confer With President -- He Is Sad at Plight of Brady"
(Head w/sub)

"U.S. FAVORS ALTERING A NAMIBIA PROPOSAL: Constitution Would Be Worked Out Before Holding of an Election"
(Head w/sub)

WALL STREET JOURNAL

DISCORD IN WEST

ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES BEYOND ARMS BUDGETS STRAIN NATO ALLIANCE: Large Obstacle to Solutions: Many Europeans Reject U.S. Vision of the World, Race for Shrinking Markets
(Head/w/2 subs)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

"REAGAN, WHITE HOUSE REBOUND FROM FIRST PRESIDENTIAL CRISIS"

"VIOLENT CRIME: NEW VIJOR IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS"

"CONGRESS KEEPS BUDGET ON TRACK"

"INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO REAGAN: PRAYERS, ADMIRATION -- AND RELIEF"

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"REAGAN JOKES; SIGNS BILL; BRADY IMPROVES: President Healing 'Like Young Man'"
(Head w/sub)

"GUN ISSUE TO ESCALATE IN NATION"

"HINKLEY'S CHARACTER SEARCHED FOR MOTIVE"

THE BALTIMORE SUN

"REAGAN'S RECUPERATION GOING 'EXTREMELY WELL,' OTHER VICTIMS IMPROVING"

"COAL PACT DECISIVELY DEFEATED: Miners, Concerned About 'Loopholes,' to Continue
Strike"
(Head w/sub)

"HAIG ACTED PROPERLY, REAGAN'S AIDES AGREE"

"HINCKLEY IS SAID TO HAVE WRITTEN OF DEATH WISH"

"HINCKLEY AND HIS GUN: COMPANIONS ON THE ROAD TO DESTRUCTION"

WASHINGTON STAR

"REAGAN WORKS FROM HOSPITAL: Sees Visitors, Signs Bill on Dairy Prices, 'Business as Usual,' White House Insists"
(Head w/sub)

"CRUSH ON ACTRESS EYED AS MOTIVE: Hinckley Letters To Movie Idol Seized by FBI"

"POLISH UNION VOTES TO DROP STRIKE THREAT"

"DOCTORS EXPRESS OPTIMISM AS BRADY SHOWS RESPONSE"

"ADMINISTRATION RALLIES TO LAUD HAIG CRISIS ROLE"

"MINERS VOTING BETTER THAN 2-1 AGAINST PROPOSED COAL CONTRACT"



The White House NEWS SUMMARY

*Keep
Reagan*

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1981, -- 6 a.m. edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL

"President's Condition Continues To Improve; Brady Shows Gains" -- Doctors predict 'full recovery' for Reagan. Brady moves left toes for the first time and plays catch with his wife. (Post/A-1)

"Miners Ponder Lengthy Strike" -- Industrial negotiator dispels hopes new agreements will be reached soon. (UPI, 2:40)

"Shooting Gives Reagan Boost In Popularity" -- In a Washington Post-ABC News poll Reagan's approval rating showed a climb of 11 percentage points, 73 percent approve of Reagan's performance as President. (Post, A1)

"Kremlin Expert On U.S. Can't Prolong Visit Here" -- Top Soviet Americanologist refused extension of visa, apparently scuttling a televised American-Soviet debate on the arms race. (Post, A2)

INTERNATIONAL

"Assailants Fire Grenades At U.S. Embassy In San Salvador" -- In two separate incidents the U.S. Embassy was attacked Wednesday night. No one was injured. (AP/UPI)

"Deposed Thai Premier Makes Bid To Regain Power" -- PM Tinsulanond rallied forces loyal to him Wednesday and demanded coup leaders to surrender capital city. (Post, A1)

NETWORK NEWS (Wednesday Evening)

REAGAN -- Bullet that wounded President ricocheted off limo, accounting for mild injury. Portion of WH staff moves to GWU Hospital. NBC reports Reagan had collapsed upon entering hospital. (ABC, NBC, CBS-lead)

HAND GUNS -- Debate over controls opens again. Sen. Kennedy calls for tough legislation. (ABC, CBS-2nd)

MORNING NEWS: (Thursday Morning)
Senators Paul Laxalt and Jesse Helms will be on Good Morning America (ABC)

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NATIONAL

PRESIDENT'S CONDITION CONTINUES TO IMPROVE; BRADY SHOWS GAINS

Reagan continued to progress toward what his doctors predicted would be "full recovery" Wednesday. The biggest change Wednesday was improvement of the condition of Jim Brady. Brady moved his left toes for the first time, counted to three and spoke simple words. Dr. O'Leary said Brady played catch with a small plastic ball wrapped in gauze and is responding to commands. "There is no evidence of complications at this time," O'Leary said. But while aides were happy about Brady there were signs of uneasiness for the first time at the WH since the shooting over press queries concerning the President's condition. These concerns were sparked by at least a day's delay in a WH photo of the President, which had been tentatively promised for Wednesday. At the daily WH briefing, Larry Speakes said the picture had been postponed for at least a day and declined to give a reason. It was learned however, that Michael Deaver, had determined the President shouldn't be photographed while he still has tubes in his arms and chest. WH sensitivity over the delay in the picture was a reminder of how traumatic the shooting was for the 70-year-old man, despite Reagan's exceptional recovery and his hospital quips. (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, 4/2, A1)

SHOOTING GIVES REAGAN BOOST IN POPULARITY

The burst of gunfire that injured Reagan Monday sparked an instantaneous and sharp rise in his popular standing with the American people, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. Reagan's approval rating showed a climb of 11 percentage points from Sunday, to Tuesday, when the new poll was conducted. In the survey, 73 percent of those interviewed said they approve of Reagan's performance as President, 16 percent said they disapprove, and 11 percent expressed no opinion. In addition, the poll uncovered evidence of public dissatisfaction with the performance of Secty. Haig, whose actions before and after the shooting have made him a center of controversy. Despite their fear that a President presents a ready target, Americans overwhelmingly reject the idea Presidents should isolate themselves from the citizenry for safety's sake. (Barry Sussman, Washington Post, 4/2, A1)

MINERS PONDER LENGTHY STRIKE

Striking coal miners began picketing non-union soft coal mines within hours of rejection of a tentative contract, and stepped-up efforts were forecast to halt coal production. B.R. Brown, President of Consolidation Coal Co. and Chief Industry Negotiator, seemed to dispel any hopes a new agreement might be reached soon by saying the industry "has no plans to resume negotiations." United Mine Workers President Sam Church Jr., who placed his leadership prestige on the line by traveling through the coal fields to push contract ratification, had no comment on the 2-1 "no" vote by 160,000 UMW membs. (Drew Von Bergen, UPI, 2:40)

REAGAN'S RISK MAY HAVE BEEN MUCH GREATER THAN BELIEVED

Reagan's life may have been in graver danger after he was shot in the chest Monday than was evident from preliminary medical reports. The President might have died of blood loss and shock if U.S.S. agents had ordered him transported to a more distant hospital, rather than driving him swiftly to nearby G.W. Univ. Hospital, according to medical sources familiar with his case. In the opinion

of Roberto Hernandez, a D.C. paramedic who helped carry the stricken President into the emergency room, Reagan looked like a man whose life was in danger. However, since his operation, Reagan has improved steadily, and a statement Wednesday said he was in good condition despite some pain requiring mild medication --normal for someone who has had major surgery. (Susan Okie, Washington Post, 4/2, A1)

OBSESSION WITH ACTRESS LED TO CROSS-COUNTRY TREK

John Hinckley, Reagan's accused assailant, had an obsession with actress Jodie Foster that went beyond infatuation to a long and ominous cross-country courtship, according to sources and the full text of a letter addressed to her. "Jodie," the letter reads, "I would abandon this idea of getting Reagan in a second if I could win your heart and live out the rest of my life with you, whether it be in total obscurity or whatever. The two-page letter, addressed but not mailed to Foster, sketched a portrait of a lonely, shy and desperate man almost pleading for the affections of the young starlet. Law enforcement officials investigating the case firmly believe Hinckley acted alone Monday. "We've found no evidence whatsoever to indicate a conspiracy," said Thomas P. Decair, a spokesman for the Justice Dept. (Ron Shaffer & Neil Henry/Washington Post/4-2/A1)

SENATE UNIT REBUFFS NAVY ON ACTIVATING OLD CARRIER

In the first big flinch on defense spending since the Nov. election, the Sen. Armed Services Comm. Wednesday refused to go along with the Navy's request to take the aircraft carrier Oriskany out of mothballs. Sen. Carl Levin of the committee said the Oriskany vote was a "harbinger" of a change in political mood toward the record-high defense budgets proposed by the Administration. Sen. Tower cautioned against assuming his committee would disapprove reactivating other battleships. The chairman said he personally favored the idea because of all the firepower that could be mounted on the WW II ships. (George C. Wilson, Washington Post, 4/2, A2)

KREMLIN'S EXPERT ON U.S. CAN'T PROLONG VISIT HERE

The Administration has refused to permit the Kremlin's top Americanologist to prolong his current visit to the U.S., apparently scuttling a televised Soviet-American debate on the arms race. According to a senior State Dept. official, the Administration is displeased that numerous Soviet officials have appeared recently on U.S. television while requests for reciprocity in Moscow have been ignored. (Robert G. Kaiser, Washington Post, 4/2, A2)

INTERNATIONAL

EL SALVADOR

SHOTS FIRED AT U.S. EMBASSY

Half a dozen shots were fired at the front of the U.S. Embassy Wednesday night, breaking a window but injuring no one, a Marine guard on duty at the time reported. The attack, the fourth on the embassy within a month, occurred after the start of the nightly curfew in San Salvador, and there were no eyewitness reports. But it was assumed the firing came from a passing car or truck. (AP, 3:20)

ASSAILANTS FIRE GRENADES AT U.S. EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR

Suspected leftist guerrillas fired two rocket-propelled grenades at the U.S. Embassy, but missed their target in the fifth attack on the fortress-like facility this year. The two grenades fired Wednesday evening by assailants in a speeding pickup truck smashed into a nearby office building, shattering windows on the first and second floors but causing no injuries, a soldier investigating the attack said. (John E. Newhagen, UPI 3:59)

DEPOSED THAI PREMIER MAKES BID TO REGAIN POWER

Thailand's PM Prem Tinsulanond, driven from Bangkok by a military coup, Wednesday rallied forces loyal to him from a N.E. provincial city and demanded the immediate surrender of the coup leaders now controlling the capital. Although Prem declined to say whether his forces would move against Gen. Sant's troops, unconfirmed reports from the Thai capital state soldiers loyal to Prem were heading toward Bangkok from three directions. Sant called Prem "a person of low morals and weak as a woman" and accused him of dragging the monarchy into politics, AP reported. Sant was also quoted as saying his administration would not alter Thailand's pro-American foreign policy. According to UPI, State spokesman Dyess said, "Our position is the king is the head of the state in Thailand, and we deal with whatever government is appointed by the king." (William Branigin & John Burgess, Washington Post, 4/2, A1)

U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO NICARAGUA IS SUSPENDED BUT MAY BE RESUMED

The Administration announced Wednesday it is withholding further economic aid to Nicaragua but held out the possibility aid will be resumed, if Nicaragua continues its freeze on arms shipments to El Salvador and reduces its other support for the guerrillas. At the same time, the Administration announced it would not invoke a law requiring immediate repayment of \$40M in loans to Nicaragua. The Administration's decision, was widely regarded as an attempt to strike a compromise between pressure from conservative Republicans in Congress to halt all support to Nicaragua and the desire, in Dyess' words, not to "slam the door" on that country and its leftist government. Moreover, Dyess announced the Administration is "considering a resumption of (Food for Peace) and later development assistance if the favorable trends" in Nicaragua continue. (Edward Walsh Washington Post, 4/2, A2)

POLISH OFFICIALS SEEK FOOD AND CASH AID IN LONDON, PARIS AND WASHINGTON

As Polish Deputy Premier Jagielski went from Paris to Washington today seeking emergency financial and food aid for his broke nation, the Solidarity Union formally took its 10M members off strike alert. In Brussels and Belgium, European common market agriculture ministers gave priority approval for a \$216M emergency food-aid package to Poland at 15 percent below world market prices. U.S. officials said Washington was prepared to offer Poland emergency food aid and to reschedule debt repayments on condition the Polish government and trade unions seek to avoid a clash. (Bogdan Turek, UPI, 3:32)

U.S. OFFERING AID TO POLAND WITH STRINGS

The U.S. is prepared to offer Poland food and financial aid, but only if the Polish government and the nation's trade unionists will move toward a peaceful solution to their problems. The milk and grains will be offered under the Public Law 480 "Food for Peace" program, in which surplus U.S. foods are sold to other countries in return for "soft" currencies such as the Polish Zloty. The new statement by the Administration also puts the trade union movement Solidarity on notice any rash actions on its part can affect the U.S. aid program. (Jim Anderson, UPI, 3:40)

STILL IN CONTROL AFTER MILITANT CRITICISM

Despite criticism from militant union leaders Lech Walesa emerged from another tussle this week still in clear control of Poland's independent labor movement. Walesa told reporters he may have lost some friends on the commission but he still has many among the federation's 10M members. There was much criticism because the agreement did not satisfy the farmers demands. Walesa was accused of being too soft. But one union adviser said there was never any possibility the commission would repudiate what he (Walesa) had done. "He's too powerful," said the adviser. (Thomas Netter, AP, 2:38)

100 GREEN BERETS, U.S. DESTROYER GOING TO LIBERIA FOR DEMONSTRATION

The Administration announced Wednesday it is sending 100 Green Berets and the U.S. destroyer Thorn to Liberia as a demonstration of support for the military government of that W. African nation. The dispatch of Green Berets and the naval vessel is particularly symbolic because of the timing. The Special Forces team is to arrive in Liberia on April 10 from Ft. Bragg, N.C., and the destroyer is scheduled to visit Monrovia April 12-15. April 12 is the anniversary of the military coup and execution of Tolbert, who was shot three times in the head by soldiers who broke into his mansion about 1 a.m. In announcing the Liberian aid, State's Dyess said it is a response to the "desire of the Liberian government to increase its defense capabilities and a willingness on our part to assist them." (Don Oberdorfer Washington Post, 4/2, A2)

SOVIETS SAID TO TAKE OVER KABUL'S SECURITY

Four Afghan Army units that had been guarding the capital city of Kabul have been moved into the countryside and replaced by Soviet forces, Western diplomats reported in New Delhi Wednesday. According to one analyst, the shift indicates the Soviets no longer trust the Afghan Army units to guard the capital even under the supervision of Russian troops. (Stuart Auerbach, Washington Post, 4/2, A15)

Network News SummaryWednesday evening, April 1, 1981

REAGAN--Now believed the bullet that struck Reagan ricocheted off bulletproof limo, thus explaining Reagan's mild injury and quick recovery. Team of lawyers from Edward Bennett Williams see's Hinkley to discuss trial strategy. Issue likely to be legal sanity at time of shooting. Review Hinkley's comings and goings for last several months and conclude he may have been stocking Reagan for awhile. Also review relationship with Nazi movement and actress Foster who holds press conference to say she recieved letters and turned them over to authorities; and that she is shocked, frightened, and streded by incident. CBS's Liz Totten reporting from Yale concludes by asking the question: Was there administrative oversight or too little attention paid to the letters? ABC carefully reviews the shooting showing police and security agents apparently lax at time. SEC investigation infers that Hinkley's father sold Company stocks to son which he used often to survive during bad times. Doctors say Reagan still feels pain but is doing well. WH aid says Reagan may return to WH next week. Brady's condition still critical and future uncertain. ABC reports Brady pulls the tube from his mouth in obvious sign he is improving rapidly. WH officials say Reagan still in command but he slept most the day in a hospital room paid for by his California insurance policy. NBC opens saying a large chunk of the WH moves to GWU and takes over 10 rooms and WH doesn't know who'll pay for them. Bush continues in charge and soon to be a forgotten man according to ABC's Sam Donaldson. Reporters ask tough questions about Reagan's condition because WH wont let outside photographs.

ABC's Sam Donaldson interviews security agent who says Reagan shouted at him for pushing into limo, but adds Reagan has since apologized.

NBC departs radically from other network's coverage when NBC's Robert Gazelle reviews Reagan collapse upon entering the hospital. Gazelle interviews attendant who says Reagan was in a life threatening situation, contrary to everything WH and O'Leary had said. Gazelle adds the hospital has told the attendant not to discuss the matter further. Secy. Regan orders his own investigation of the shooting. USSS and two hill investigations already commissioned.

ABC/Wash. Post poll taken after shooting says that two-thirds polled favor more stringent hand gun control laws. Also, Reagan's approval rating goes up to 73%; 43% say Bush can handle the job; and Haig has lost favor of 43% of people. (figures represent pluralities)

Dixon pose's for news-picture that conveys their love. (NBC Close)

HAND GUN--The debate once again kindled as Congress is tired of ignoring issue and hand gun lobby tired of fighting issue. But Sen. Kennedy gives emotional exhortation that references Reagan. Security for Kennedy tightens. ABC adds Meese again states opposition to hand gun control laws. (ABC,CBS-2)

NBC reviews violent crime in U.S. Shows Secy. Smith saying that 30% of family youths touched by violent crime and NBC's Linda Ellerbee says Smith is wrong, that the figure is only 6%. Differences result because Justice keeps two sets of figures; one on local crime reported and the other on a survey of victims. World reaction to U.S. laws is critical and editorials beg tighter controls. (NBC-12)

ATLANTA--22nd black child added to list of killings. (CBS-6, ABC,NBC-3)

DOW--Up 10.27 due again to Reagan's rapid recovery.

ABSCAM--Sen. Harrison Williams on trial and FBI shows video tapes.
(CBS,ABC,NBC,4)

UMW--Mine officials bitter that miners reject negotiated agreement, and they say this means a long strike. (CBS,NBC-3, ABC-5)

NICARAGUA--Administration withdraws economic assistance because of aide to the guerillas. (CBS,NBC-7, ABC-6)

POLAND--Workers cancel strike alert in most of country but there is uneasy compromise in ranks of labor. Meat rationing in full effect. CBS shows Secy. Baldrige with Polish leaders. (CBS-8, ABC,NBC-7)

THAILAND--The democratic government and the military claim legitimate control of government, a familiar scene in the country. (CBS,ABC-8)

ASSASINS--CBS's Morton Dean reviews assasination attempts against major figures starting with Kennedy in 1963. (CBS-9)

FIRE--Fourth fire in Las Vegas hits Ceasars Palace-no deaths. (CBS-5,ABC-12, NBC-2)

TORNADO--Levels Alabama town. (CBS-6,ABC-11,NBC-9)

SHUTTLE--Looks like she'll fly on April 10. (ABC-13, ABC,NBC-6)

The White House Communications Agency will play back a 38-minute composite of the network news Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on channel 6.

ABC News "Nightline"

Wednesday, April 1, 1981
11:30 p.m. EST

The entire broadcast was devoted to a Ted Koppel interview with White House Counsellor Ed Meese and Chief of Staff James Baker.

Koppel's questioning revolved around Monday's events and the role the two men played immediately following the shooting. Baker mentioned that the President had collapsed just as he walked into the emergency room, but that he was able to walk into the building with some assistance.

When asked whether they had initially thought an adversary would attempt to take advantage of the situation, Baker replied that there was a need to portray to allies and adversaries alike that there was a continuity of government and that it is functioning and in order. He also mentioned that WH communications was established between Air Force II, GWU Hospital and the WH between 30-45 minutes after receiving word the President had been shot.

Koppel recapped Sec. Haig's remarks that night that there was no heightened military alert, but questioned whether some units had actually been put on alert. Meese responded that some units had been put on a defense alert, but that they were units ordinarily on alert of some basis. Sec. Weinberger was in contact with the National Command Center in the WH Situation Room. There was a desire to be prepared for all contingencies he said.

Koppel read a copy of a cable that went out to all U.S. embassies abroad appraising and reassuring them of the situation. Baker said that the cable had gone out at 5:45 p.m. EST. Meese noted that it was the second cable and that an earlier cable had been sent out to all embassies as soon as the doctors gave their first report (between 3-4 p.m. EST) that the President was in no critical medical danger.

ABC then replayed the tape of Sec. Haig saying that he was in control here in the White House pending the return of Vice President Bush. TK said Haig had mistated the Constitutional line of authority, that there were disagreements between between Sec. Haig and Sec. Weinberger and that both Meese and Baker were distressed over Haig's announcement in the press room. Meese responded that neither of us (Baker and Meese) were distressed and that there was not one second when there was a lack of someone in charge. The President was in charge and his authority flowed to all the Cabinet officers and staff in the WH situation room. Meese also said that if the President had been placed under anesthesia, there were people ready to take care of any possible contingency. At no time was anyone displeased with Sec. Haig or anyone else. Meese went on to note that Sec. Haig felt it necessary to reassure our allies. Koppel then asked who's decision was it for Haig to make the statement. Baker answered that it was his decision, but it was a decision with which they agree. Baker also noted that prior to leaving for the hospital, he and Sec. Haig agreed that Haig would be the "point of contact in the WH Situation Room" and that he functioned extremely well in that capacity. Baker also noted that the perception that he was not pleased with Haig's behavior is a misperception and a carryover of the previous week's events. Meese mentioned that both he and Baker were happy to be on the program tonight so that they could bring the perceptions back into line with reality.

Meese went on to say that veterans of the Washington scene had told him that the White House's reaction to the crisis was "smooth, calm, that people did their jobs without a lot of flurry and as a result, we think those people should get credit for it." Meese also mentioned that there was a contingency plan to always have someone there in authority to make a decision on a particular problem.

Koppel mentioned former President Ford's comment that the shooting incident would help the President get some of his domestic programs through and asked whether either share that perception. Baker agreed with it although he didn't know how long it would last on the Hill. Meese said the latest Washington Post-ABC Poll (indicating a 10 percentage point increase in the Presidential approval rating) taken immediately after the shooting indicates that there are some beneficial residual effects. The way the President reacted to the situation reaffirmed to the American people that the President has the qualities of leadership.

On the question of gun control, Meese said the President won't change his views on gun control and will remain opposed to it.

Baker concluded saying that the President is fine, but that Wednesday and Thursday will be the days the President experiences the greatest amount of postoperative discomfort. He was up and walking today and signed various documents.

Meese said that a sure sign that the President is in good shape is that he hasn't lost his sense of humor. He said that he won't allow television cameras into the hospital so that the President could have his privacy.

Tomorrow's News

Hinckley will return to U.S. District Court for a preliminary court hearing. Two congressional committees will begin an investigation of the Secret Service's performance during the attack on the President.

* * * * *

President Reagan: A Remarkable Man

By VERMONT ROYSTER

Ronald Reagan continues to confound all who watch him, friends or critics.

The events of Monday were but the latest example. Impressive though that was. Here was a 70-year-old man with a bullet in his lung, walking under his own steam from car to hospital emergency room. There he underwent more than two hours of emergency surgery and emerged from it in a condition that would have been remarkable for one half his age. Even the doctors who attended him were astonished at the stability of his vital functions, presaging a rapid recovery. One of them noted that his "physiological age" belied the calendar.

So much for those who feared he might be too old for the presidency. His foes tried

Thinking Things Over

to make his age a major issue in the campaign, his friends and supporters were nervous that he might not be physically up to the demands of the presidency. We are not likely to hear of that again any time soon.

Mr. Reagan is the fifth U.S. President to be the target of an assassination attempt in this century, beginning with McKinley in 1901 and running through the two attempts on Gerald Ford. Just why this should be so in this country, of all countries, must remain a puzzle. The targeted Presidents have been both Democratic and Republican: except for the Puerto Rican gang attempt on President Truman, all the attempts seem to have been the work of isolated gunmen. Not organized terrorists, just individual madmen.

What is unusual in the Reagan case is that he is the first President-in-office to be actually shot and to recover. Teddy Roosevelt, who was wounded in 1912 and also recovered, was then several years out of office. McKinley died within a few days of being shot, John Kennedy within a matter of minutes. All the others escaped.

That Mr. Reagan survived is due both to his own efforts to keep his body in good shape and to sheer luck that the bullet didn't hit three inches closer to his heart. In many ways that's the story of his life, a combination of foresight and fortune.

Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1980 because, in large measure, the times were right for him. He had been standing in the presidential wings since 1966 when to everyone's surprise he was elected governor of California. But not until last year had disillusionment with a generation of liberal Democratic policies shifted the public mood enough to make Reagan a strong presidential possibility. Before that he couldn't even win the Republican nomination.

But when the tide of fortune turned Mr. Reagan was ready to greet it. What the voters had come to feel about the state of the country, and what ought to be done about it, he had felt for a long time and he was able to articulate the people's feelings.

Indeed, for a politician, President Reagan has been remarkably consistent in his political advocacy. Ten years ago while still governor of California, he would express to any visiting journalist essentially the same thoughts, frequently using the same words and homely parables, that he used so skillfully in his successful campaign. He did not have to change his rhetoric to fit a new political mood. He waited patiently until the public mood matched his own.

Since his election his consistency of thought and action have been equally remarkable. Every new President in the past quarter century, seeking the office, has talked of reducing government spending, with a balanced budget promised in the

near future, and of cutting the people's taxes. To everyone's astonishment President Reagan from his first day in office actually set out to do what he said he would do.

What's more, he seems to have thus far carried the people with him, in defiance of the conventional wisdom that cutting the government's budget is politically impossible. At least, his friends have been surprised, his foes confounded.

President Reagan is no deep philosopher or intellectual giant. What President of our times has been? But he has proved more than a match for the intellectual snobs who have sneered because he was once a movie actor and scoffed at his use of the copybook maxims. What has been overlooked is that this man has lived a long and varied life, and somewhere along the way found out who he is, what he thinks and why he thinks it. That's a rare thing for any man.

Two small incidents from Monday: When Mrs. Reagan rushed to the hospital and asked him what had happened, he replied, "I forgot to duck." And as he was wheeled into the operating room he looked up at the surgical team and remarked, "I hope you are all Republicans."

One-liners, to be sure, and not even too original. But not lines fed by any gag-writers, to whom his scornors attribute his wry humor. These are the words of a man a little frightened by what he faces but determined to face it with grace, a man who has come to terms with death as well as life, which is the measure of true courage. Such a man is not easily bent with every wind.

So the suspicion grows that there is more to Ronald Reagan than has met anyone's eye. I will no longer be surprised if he proves to be both a strong and successful President, one who in the end captures the country's imagination and turns its direction around as no President has done since Franklin Roosevelt.

(NOTE: We have included these three editorials in their entirety for those who would like to read the entire text. White House News Summary)

Crisis Management

Question: What is Bush's status now, technically?

Answer: He is the Vice President.

Q. Is he the stand-in President?

A. No he is not.

With those words, Lyn Nofziger, a longtime aide to Ronald Reagan and now assistant to the President, told a press conference at George Washington University Hospital Monday night in no uncertain terms that there had been no transfer of presidential power. The President had just been operated on to remove a bullet from his lung, but he was still in charge of the government.

Mr. Nofziger, an old hand at politics and government, performed coolly under fire, keeping the White House line straight in a sea of rumors. So did most other top government officials, with the exception of one slip by Secretary of State Haig which TV-man Dan Rather blew up to far greater significance than it deserved. What with rumors going out on the air that Press Secretary James Brady had died and that the President was undergoing open heart surgery, the TV reporters and anchormen behaved less admirably, but the question of how the government itself functioned is of more importance.

There will be much said about the failure of the Washington police and Secret Service to keep the press area outside the Washington Hilton free of unauthorized strangers, but once the shooting began the two agencies were impressive. Secret Service Agent Timothy McCarthy used his body to shield the President, suffering a serious wound. Policeman Thomas K. Delahanty was wounded as he lunged for the gunman.

The President was hustled out of the area and the hospital alerted to receive him. Mr. Nofziger rushed to the hospital and quickly put out the word that the President had been shot, correcting early reports that he had merely received a bump. Cabinet officers who are members of the crisis management team quickly assembled in the White House situation room. Vice President Bush was notified while flying from Fort Worth to Austin, Texas, diverting his flight back to Washington. The Senate was notified simultaneously. By 4:15 p.m., an hour

and forty minutes after the shooting, Secretary Haig was announcing to the press that the crisis team was in place, he was temporarily in charge and in touch with Vice President Bush, who was en route.

Much has been made of the Haig performance, for two reasons. His remark to the press that "constitutionally" he was third in line to the President and Vice President was 34 years out of date; the Presidential Succession Act of July 18, 1947 put the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate ahead of the Secretary of State. The other reason was that Mr. Haig only last week had gone public with his complaints over the President's decision to put Mr. Bush at the head of the crisis team. Monday's performance made it appear that Secretary Haig was trying to overreach his authority, bringing back memories of his strong role in the last days of the Nixon White House.

Aside from the constitutional slip, however, it would be hard to fault Mr. Haig's performance. He was the ranking Cabinet officer in the White House at the time. He was in touch with the Vice President. His answers to other questions were careful and correct. Although immediate steps were taken to protect the life of Speaker of the House O'Neill, it would have been a bit ludicrous at that point to suggest that he should have been hauled over to the White House to play his Third Man role.

It also should be said on Mr. Haig's behalf that he, like Mr. Nofziger and the others, moved quickly and was prepared to offer a measure of leadership in the midst of crisis. The reminder that Vice President Bush is next in line for the presidency gives weight to Mr. Reagan's decision to put him at the top of the crisis team. But it is not a bad thing to have people like Secretary Haig, trained to make quick decisions, when crisis events occur. Fortunately, with the President snapping back quickly from his surgery, we can all relax a bit. But in looking back it will be hard to find much fault with the way the men and women who immediately serve the President performed in the midst of uncertainty and danger.

Man at the Center

During that brief time Monday when President Reagan's life was in danger, something came into focus that we had not thought much about before: There really is a great deal riding on this particular President.

As we noted here yesterday, the American system is remarkably resilient in the throes of crisis. The institutions are strong and deeply rooted. The processes for the orderly transfer of power are clearly defined, as nearly as that is possible in an imperfect world. And this country is uniquely rich in individuals with the intelligence and character that qualifies them for leadership roles and awesome responsibilities.

But Mr. Reagan has brought one thing to his job that has been all too rare in Presidents, and indeed in political leaders of all kinds. At a time when politics has seemed fraught more than ever with undirected pragmatism, Mr. Reagan brings a set of philosophical principles to the White House and has dedicated his administration to applying them. They have developed out of long years of public life. They sound old-fashioned to some; but he has never allowed himself to be embarrassed by those modernists who think it unsophisticated to have deeply held beliefs. He has known for years that it is out of such beliefs that leadership springs.

During the Monday crisis, for example, we thought of all those years when the safe money was on the so-called moderates among the Republicans, years during which Mr. Reagan kept shaking his head and refusing to say the things that would have put the safe money behind him. We thought of his speech to the veterans, during the heat of his campaign, when he actually said America's cause in Vietnam was noble. The man is an interesting blend of political skills but resistant to the temptation to read the opinion polls and tailor his own opinions accordingly or fuzz them up with contradictions and ambiguities. In his first few weeks in the White House, he also has displayed remarkable calm and good humor as his appointees have jockeyed for power and influence.

In short, the man has in a few weeks taken on an appearance of dependability. He was quick off the mark with a well-thought-out economic program that is already working its way through Congress. He had the political spunk to tell the Russians that the summit they wanted would have to wait until we could be sure there were substantive things to be settled. And he has been telling the voters—as he did in his speech to the building trades unionists shortly before he was shot—that they can make it on their own, without constant government help and intervention, if the government will simply relieve some of the burdens it has imposed. And perhaps most remarkable of all, he could even remain cheerful when he was walking into the hospital to have the bullet of a would-be assassin removed.

Mr. Reagan is, of course, no superman. Neither he nor we can know what awaits this administration, whether it be good or ill fortune. Some Presidents are lucky, some are not. Mr. Reagan's appointees may serve him well or they may not. His visions may exceed the means available for achieving them or make demands that the country cannot meet. Like all Presidents, he will face further risks and opportunities.

The first question before him and the country centers on how Congress will deal with his economic program. There has been speculation that the shooting may help, by engendering both sympathy and admiration from those who might otherwise oppose or try to weaken his program. Since we find the program on the whole attractive, we hope so but we would prefer to feel that the program was succeeding out of a recognition of its merits. And certainly, those people who have genuine doubts have every right to raise them.

But we are feeling more confident than ever about the country's leadership. We wish Mr. Reagan a speedy recovery so that he can pick up soon where he was so frighteningly and cruelly interrupted.

* * * * * * * * * *TODAYS EDITORIALS--Thursday, April 2, 1981* * * * * *

CRISIS -- "America has become a nation of crisis aficionados, accepting crisis -- especially a crisis involving the President -- as the medium by which character and status are most surely revealed. This builds a certain skew into the nation's political life, since the traits and ranking that emerge at a time of crisis do not necessarily have much to do with good governance, which is unavoidably heavy on organization, expertise and routine. In sum, crisis may be a flawed medium for exploring either government or society. But this one provided Americans with a degree of reassurance to offset the shock and the injury caused by the gunman. The reassurance lies in the sense of sharing not only vulnerability but also the capacity, personal and institutional, to deal with a terrible event." (Washington Post, 4/2)

COTTON DUST -- "The new head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Thorne G. Auchter, has selected the cotton-dust control standard as the first case for the application of the administration's "cost-benefit" approach to federal regulation. Comparing relative costs and benefits is, no doubt, a useful device for deciding among alternative regulations. But in the cotton-dust case and all the many others like it, no computation, simple or complex, can absolve Congress of its responsibility for seeing that industries do not pass off the real cost of doing business on either their workers, their communities or the general taxpayers." (Washington Post, 4/2)

GUN CONTROL -- "The American disease, in other words, is not so much violence as innocence. We marry to the pressures of industrial life the absence of constraints common to the frontier. We pretend there is no connection between violence and weapons, assassinations and guns. We thus pull the wool over our own eyes. And for all the talk of a new era, we are not much different now that we have been ever since our pattern of leadership was disrupted by the assassination of 1963." (Joseph Kraft, Washington Post, 4/2)

THE SHOOTING -- "I know with abysmal certainty what's ahead. In the next weeks, our airwaves and newspapers will be filled with cries against violence. We will write the usual editorials in favor of gun control or mandatory sentencing or death penalties. Round up the usual psychoanalysts of our society and its crazies. Repeating this litany, I am appalled at how routine the unspeakable has become. My adulthood has been punctuated by so many assassins and would-be assassins that the grotesque has become expected. But the swell of violence has taken this secret toll on each and every one of us. Our feelings are worn around the edges by exposure to the irrational, the random, the evil. We now believe what was once unbelievable." (Ellen Goodman, Washington Post, 4/2)

"This assassination attempt probably was more akin to the attack that killed President Garfield than to the attack that killed President Lincoln. That is, it probably was unrelated to public policy in any meaningful sense. It was not symptomatic of any social division, or of anything larger than the turmoil in a single clouded mind. But that fact, while underscoring the basic health of the body politic, also reveals an intractable problem: The principle kind of physical threat to presidents is rooted in irrationalities, and hence is random, and hard, if not impossible, to anticipate." (George F. Will, Washington Post, 4/2)

AUTO IMPORTS -- "I don't know whether (Transportation Secretary) Lewis took Milton Friedman's advice, but I looked up Kissinger's account in The White House Years of the problem with Japan on textile exports in 1969. Change 'textiles' to 'autos,' and shift Nixon's foolish campaign promises in 1968 to win some southern votes to Reagan's slip from freetrade purity last year to win some votes in the Midwest auto belt, and Kissinger could be writing about present-day events. 'Protectionism is the resort of the economically weak; a wiser national policy would seek to enhance the mobility of labor and resources so that we can shift out of declining industries and expand our more productive sectors. And protectionism is above all an untenable posture for a nation that seeks to be the leader of the alliance of industrial democracies.'

(Hobart Rowen, Washington Post, 4/2)

CLEAN AIR ACT -- Current law is premised on two concepts: first, there is a whole lot we don't know about air pollution, but we have reason to believe that it isn't good for you and that certain sensitive groups in society are vulnerable to levels of dirty air that simply don't bother the great majority of Americans. These concepts have met with some success. A lot of cleanup has been purchased. And a great deal of new pollution has been avoided. Many cities are now cleaner than ever. Only those with overwhelming growth have failed to keep pace -- but absent the Clean Air Act, the result would have been much worse."

(Leon G. Billings, Washington Post, 4/2)

EDITORIALS/COLUMNISTS

THE MAN -- "Teddy Roosevelt, of course, reacted to a shot in the chest by going on to make a speech. Ronald Reagan, who had finished his speech when the bullet got to him, has been less verbose but funnier....The spectacle of grace under pressure is rare enough to be exciting wherever it appears. When it appears in circumstances like the Monday shooting, it is a profound reassurance. If anything can put such sudden, chaotic violence into a bearable perspective for the rest of us, it is the knowledge that we have a president whose self-possession is equal to the absurdity of it as well as the horror."

(Washington Star, 4/1)

THE STAFF -- "President Ronald Reagan emerged from his ordeal a hero. With his unfailing gentle sense of humor he tried to calm and reassure the nation. He did not think of himself, he thought of the impact of what had happened on the nation and the world. He remained the accomplished communicator, even with a bullet in his body, not knowing how it would affect him and his future as he was wheeled into the operating room. It was the ultimate art of psychological leadership. His own imperturbability under stress transferred itself to the entire White House. There, men and women, however close to tears, performed their duties with impressive cool-headedness. Even though the most unflappable among them, Jim Brady, the president's press secretary, had become one of the victims of this dastardly act, Lyn Nofziger, David Gergen and Larry Speakes stepped into his shoes and performed with commendable level-headedness....The arrival of the vice president, George Bush, also had a remarkably steadying effect. He conducted himself with the ease of a man who knows how to face crises, how to remain self-effacing yet self-assured under stress. Mrs. Reagan added calm and confidence with her caring presence in the hospital."

(Henry Brandon, Washington Star, 4/1)

THE STORE -- "...for a few hours while Mr. Reagan lay anesthetized, there was a problem of command. Officials had to imagine the worst. Was the shooting part of a political conspiracy? Did it presage attack by a foreign power? Was it meant to disable the United States during a challenge overseas. These legitimate concerns seem to have been handled better in fact than in word.... Mr. Weinberger is said to have pressed a claim to command, because a standing secret directive makes him the Vice President's military agent in the President's absence. And many people who last week watched Mr. Reagan reject Mr. Haig's bid to manage foreign crises were uneasy at the sight of a nervous general asserting 'control.' The lessons here are plain. The Constitution held up well; it would have served an even more acute disability. But standing directives about chains of command should not be secrets that suddenly surface in a crisis. And a Government that wants to address a crisis with a single voice should choose one. The Vice President is the obvious choice; the Secretary of State is his logical stand-in."

(New York Times, 4/1)

GUN CONTROL -- "...Since the American population is so mobile, there is need for a national gun law rather than a welter of state and local laws. If such a law would not reduce crime from its present levels, there is plenty of factual evidence to suggest that it would reduce killings and hold down future crime increases."

(New York Times, 4/1)

BUDGET -- "After weeks of skulking in the bushes, the Democrats down in Congress have finally pulled out their knives and moved onto the attack. Their obvious plan is to chop President Reagan's economic program into little pieces and replace it with a jerrybuilt job of their own devising....We're not saying that every decimal point in Reagan's economic proposals is sacred. But the fact is that both the budget cuts and the tax cuts the President has asked for are integral parts of a strategy designed to restore the U.S. economy to health. And if any major element in the program is eliminated, that strategy won't get a fair test. More to the point, it won't have a prayer of succeeding. If Rostenkowski and the other Democrats had any reasonable alternative to the President's program, it might be different. But all they have to offer is tired old schemes that have repeatedly failed us in the past."

(New York Daily News, 3/29)

DAIRY -- "...Whatever the accuracy of claims that other Reagan cuts will not hurt the truly poor--and we have disagreed with him on some of them--this one certainly doesn't hurt the poor. The dairy industry is one of the richest and most powerful lobbies in Washington...Consumers and taxpayers will benefit from the action by President Reagan and the Congress, and there are more poor folks in those categories nowadays than there are in the dairy industry."

(Atlanta Journal, 3/30)

FOREIGN POLICY -- "The Haig versus White House affair of the past two weeks in Washington casts useful light on the technique of foreign policy making--or not making. The main lesson to be learned from it is that, if foreign policy is to be consistent and is to enjoy a reasonable chance of success, there should be an easy, close, and mutually trustful relationship between the president and his secretary of state....There has been less than total trust at the White House in Mr. Haig's primary dedication to the welfare and to the interests of his President. And now the ambassadors in Washington are wondering as they so often did during the Carter years who will be making what foreign policy, and in what direction."

(Joseph C. Harsch, Christian Science Monitor, 3/31)

UNITED NATIONS -- "...The Kirkpatrick-van der Westerhuizen meeting raises parallel questions. Why did Kirkpatrick meet with officials of a foreign government with whom relations are strained without knowing who they were or the conditions under which they were visiting? When and how did she become aware of the general's identity? How long has she been aware of US policy forbidding visits by South African military officers? When did she inform the State Department of her visit with van der Westerhuizen, and what did she say? What was the subject of the discussions? The questions need to be answered because Americans should know if the meeting was part of a covert Reagan Administration effort to circumvent longstanding policy on South Africa without congressional approval, a serious breach of policy, or if Kirkpatrick simply went out on her own and bungled."

(Boston Globe, 3/29)

POLAND -- "The United States may have been understandably reluctant to take the Western lead in alleviating Poland's economic distress. The US ranks only fourth among Poland's Western creditors, with West Germany at the top. But there is no reason for America to hang back on immediate food aid that requires only White House authorization to go forward. After last year's poor harvest, Poland needs additional US credits or credit guarantees, along with all it is receiving from Europe, to carry it through until this year's harvest. It has asked for \$200 million in Commodity Credit Corporation credits for purchases of food in the United States. To expedite this would not only honor a humane American tradition but contribute to the Polish stability necessary for stability in Europe."
(Christian Science Monitor, 4/1)

EL SALVADOR -- "While controversy swirls around the Reagan Administration's proposal to send an additional \$25 million in military aid to El Salvador in fiscal 1981, various aid offices around Washington are quietly assembling a total financial- and military-aid package that could reach \$523 million. The bulk of this money is to come from three multilateral-aid institutions--the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund....Despite the glare of publicity surrounding El Salvador, most of the aid program is beyond public view. Most of it escapes Congressional oversight. And, what is most ironic, most of it is to come from allies that disapprove of the policy it supports."
(New York Times, 4/1)

SOVIETS -- "...After delaying a decision for several weeks, he [Ronald Reagan] has now declared that to lift the embargo at this time would be to send 'a wrong signal' to Moscow. Mr. Reagan is right. It would be to advise the Soviet government that the U.S. government is indifferent to what it did and is doing in Afghanistan and what it might do in Poland. It would be to throw away a piece of what little leverage the U.S. has over the Kremlin, confuse America's allies, whose spines the administration has been trying to stiffen in the face of Soviet ambitions, and do nothing much for American grain farmers, who are getting along quite well in a world market where demand far exceeds the supply. Eventually, the grain embargo should be terminated, but not as a gift to the Soviet government with nothing obtained or even expected in return."
(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/31)

CHINA -- "...Many Americans, including President Reagan, have an emotional attachment to Taiwan as a bastion of resistance against communism in Asia. But the Chinese also have strong emotions on the subject. They consider Taiwan an inseparable part of China and have vowed to reunite the island and the mainland under one flag...The mutual desire to contain the Soviet Union necessitates that both the U.S. and China must compromise. In this case, it means that the U.S., while engaging in trade with Taiwan, must continue to keep the relationship unofficial; China, while continuing to vow to restore Taiwan as an integral part of the Chinese nation, must put off indefinitely any moves to fulfill that pledge. To candidate Reagan, such a compromise was a 'cynical fiction.' But to President Reagan, it apparently is a necessary evil. We suspect that, now in the Oval Office, he has come to understand that larger interests are at stake. We applaud that understanding. It is far better to have a friendly China standing with the United States in opposition to Soviet ambitions than to have a China alone, neutralized and immobilized by Soviet power on its borders."
(Dallas Times Herald, 3/25)

REACTIONS...

"First comes cold shock, deep in the pit of the mind. Not again. Not again. (NYT)

"How close, how very close we have come to another tragic national trauma." (Sun)

"The institutions and laws which guarantee the liberty that makes life dangerous also make our system strong." (WSJ)

"Don't let it be true! Don't let it be happening. Not again. (Ph. Inquirer)

"It is pathetic when one crazed assassin can negate a national election and change the history of this nation..." (Carl Rowan, Star)

"An obvious human solution to the terrible events this week is the enactment, at long last, of a stiff law to control the possession and spread of handguns. (CSM)

"No, no, no, no. Another assassin's deranged acts wounds the President and this country." (Chicago Tribune)

"Can the act of one individual among 225,000,000 fairly characterize the behavior of the whole country?" (Detroit News)

"Last week's big Washington news, the quarrel between Vice President Bush and Secretary of State Haig, seemed embarrassingly trivial." (Boston Globe)

EDITORIALS ON THE SHOOTING...

Together -- "First comes cold shock, deep in the pit of the mind. Not again. Not again. Not another one of those days of grim unity, with everyone remembering where they were when they heard the news. How many times have we all gathered together, tragically united around the alter of events?... This generation of Americans -- this generation of spectators -- has joined together again and again in sorrow. But we have also gathered in another kind of unity; the unity of exaltation over great deeds, like the moon landing; the unity of joy, as on that split-screen day just 10 weeks ago today. As the hostages were released on one side of the world, Ronald Reagan welcomed the country to his Washington. 'Standing here,' he said, 'one faces a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history.' May he, and we, soon repair that history and reclaim that beauty." (New York Times, 3/31)

The Nightmare, Again -- "How close, how very close we have come to another tragic national trauma... The President has the prayers of all Americans for a full and swift recovery." (Baltimore Sun, 3/31)

Times of Violence -- "Mr. Reagan and James Brady, his press secretary, were victims, in part, of the powerful aspirations in this society for human liberty ... The institutions and laws which guarantee the liberty that makes life dangerous also make our system strong. Ronald Reagan, a man with a powerful belief in human liberty and a detestation of oppressive state control, would be the first to uphold that view, we think." (Wall Street Journal, 3/31)

The Assault on the President -- "In the face of these recurrent shocks, there is the consolation of a heartening resilience and balance in the nation. There are established procedures, customary and constitutional, carefully being followed, guaranteeing the continuity of government. So far as can be seen, the administration has reacted with poise and good judgment." (Washington Star, 3/31)

Again, American Violence, But The Nation Must Go On -- "The awful fascination tyrannized the mind, the consciousness...Dominating it all, the overriding feeling, as history unfolded tyrannically, was the ghastly immediacy of wishing, praying against reality. Don't let it be true! Don't let it be happening. Not again...What has happened to this most decent, most humanely established and dedicated of nations that to kill or try to kill its leaders has come to be part of the American way of life?...In Washington...rain began to fall, as if the heavens were weeping on and for the seat of the government of the United States. As well they might. As well they should. Sympathy, though, seems not enough, not good enough. Not for James S. Brady, that decent, careful man of 40, wounded in the brain. Not for Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy, or District of Columbia police officer Thomas K. Delahanty wounded on protective duty in full light of day in the nation's capital, where safety should be -- but is not -- a basic assumption. Not, certainly, for Ronald Reagan, who with characteristic self-confidence and cheer joked with bystanders and physicians even as he was being moved toward surgery. Overriding the sympathy, the rage, the senses of disgust and frustration is the clear imperative that the business of government, and of the nation, must and will go on."(Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/31)

Lessons We Can't Seem To Learn -- "It is pathetic when one crazed assassin can negate a national election and change the history of this nation by simply squeezing the trigger of one of those buy-'em-like-chewing-gum revolvers. How many tragedies and near-tragedies must we have before we accept what is so sickeningly obvious?"
(Carl Rowan, Washington Star, 3/31)

Mending America -- "An obvious human solution to the terrible events this week is the enactment, at long last, of a stiff law to control the possession and spread of handguns. The civilized world must wonder: How many Americans must fall victim to easily purchased crime before the United States comes to its senses? It must do so now. It can take example from such countries as Britain and Japan, where firearms are under stringent controls and where wild gun play like that all too graphically witnessed two days ago is a rarity."
(Christian Science Monitor, 4/1)

Again the Gunman Strikes -- "No, no, no, no. Another assassin's deranged acts wounds the President and this country...The entire nation lies wounded, grasping for understanding of the dark, violent side of its nature, waiting for normal life and work to resume. And not only the nation; the world, too, suffers injury; for this hiatus leaves us rudderless. Even after the immediate crisis is past, those who look to the United States for leadership in a dangerous and violent era must ask themselves how far they should follow a nation that so regularly produces these horrors."
(Chicago Tribune, 4/1)

Violence against democracy... -- "Making the President safer carries the risk that he would grow isolated from his constituents, or -- what is equally bad -- that they would come to feel he is isolated. It also would make American politics colder and less human. But even these risks begin to look acceptable next to the terrible example of violence to which our President has been exposed."
(Chicago Tribune, 4/1)

...and a democracy of violence -- "Is this enough? Will the newest assassination attempt against a President -- the seventh in this century -- at last give our lawmakers guts enough to tell the gun-fondlers that their hobby will have to be curbed? Or will they again decide it's better for other people to lose their lives than for them to lose votes?"
(Chicago Tribune, 4/1)

President Reagan -- "This may be the time to consider security measures for the president of the United States that go far beyond anything undertaken in modern times. This may be the necessary time for just such security precautions."
(Atlanta Constitution, 3/31)

Rapid Rebound -- "Though Mr. Reagan may be in his seventieth year, his physicians have marveled at his remarkable constitution, which they say should accelerate his recovery. The task before Mr. Reagan now is most difficult: How to handle the world's toughest job while recuperating from a serious injury. We hope the president uses the coming months to test his concept of a 'cabinet government.' By relying on his senior advisers, Mr. Reagan can avoid overtaxing himself...It is heartening to see that official Washington has continued to function normally during this emergency. The senseless, violent act of one individual has not thrown the government into chaos, nor thrown the country into a panic. If anything, it may have brought us closer together." (Baltimore Sun, 4/1)

Attack on the President -- "There is much about the event we don't yet know, and, indeed, for five terrible hours yesterday, as the country anxiously watched television newsmen announce and then retract one report after another, Americans might have wondered if anybody knew anything for sure. What we who know President Reagan knew for sure, however, is that this amateur ranch hand is as tough as boiled rawhide, tough in body and tough in spirit. Those gentle wisecracks he offered on the way to the operating room are only the outward signs of an uncommonly sturdy heart. But while we sigh with relief that Mr. Reagan will be well, we grieve for our friend James Brady, his press secretary, who was shot in the head by the same gunman. And we grieve, too for the nation, which once again will be excoriated at home and abroad for its 'violence-prone society.' Can the act of one individual among 225,000,000 fairly characterize the behavior of the whole country?...Can the American people, who endure a crucible to choose a president by democratic means, guarantee the life of that president? The answer is sadly, simply, no. While contemplating that grim fact, however, let's take heart today that the assassin failed, that the president is happily on the mend."
(Detroit News, 3/31)

Gunfire in Washington -- "Visibly and swiftly, the government showed that it continued to function. As the President entered the hospital, his Administration was already working to reassure America and the world of that fact. Last week's big Washington news, the quarrel between Vice President Bush and Secretary of State Haig, seemed embarrassingly trivial." (Boston Globe, 3/31)

Once Again -- "Despite so many years of it, the responses were precisely the same as always. Incredulity. Then a wave of horror and revulsion. The involuntary groan: 'My God.'...The true horror is the constantly mounting evidence that our efforts to govern our relationships with each other civilly through discourse, accommodation and peaceable democratic persuasion can be destroyed in an instant by the whim of a gunslinger; and the awful implication that, finally, our destiny is at the mercy of maniacs."
(Russell Baker, New York Times, 4/1)

The Presidency Under Glass -- "...in the wake of the shooting, many are beginning to say America must do more to protect its Presidents...It is an understandable reaction and, since five of the last nine Presidents have been shot at, it's only practical. But is it wise? There is no ignoring the need for security, but there is a price to be paid for encapsulating Presidents even more. It would mean a different kind of Presidency and, necessarily, a different kind of Presidential campaign -- changes that would create their own dangers for Presidents and public."
(New York Times, 4/1)

TREASURY CHIEF REGAN PLANS APRIL MEETINGS IN THREE EUROPEAN CAPITALS

Secretary Regan plans to visit London, Paris and Bonn next month for meetings with finance ministers and other officials. While Treasury hasn't confirmed precise travel plans, it is expected that Regan will be in Britain on the weekend of April 10-12 for a meeting of the "Big Five" finance ministers, representing the U.S., West Germany, Britain, France and Japan. Such talks would give the ministers an opportunity to discuss international economic developments, including interest rates, and International Monetary Fund and World Bank policy issues before the 21 May meeting in Gabon of the IMF policy-making interim committee.

(Wall Street Journal, 3/30)

U.S. FAVORS ALTERING A NAMIBIA PROPOSAL

Reagan administration officials said today the U.S. was prepared to discuss a modification of the stalemated UN plan for independence for South-West Africa that might be acceptable to South Africa and to some key black African states. The officials discussed this possibility as the WH, seeking to demonstrate that foreign policy business was going on as usual despite the wounding of President Reagan, announced formally Tuesday that Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State-designate for African Affairs, would lead a mission to southern Africa next month. The administration wants to ask the various parties to consider adoption of a "Zimbabwe formula," in which the future laws of the country would be worked out in negotiations before an election took place. The current UN-sponsored plan for South-West Africa's independence says elections would be held first to set up a constituent assembly that would in turn draft the laws.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, 4/1)

JAPANESE CARMAKER ROLLS UP SLEEVES TO CRACK U.S. MARKET

A seventh Japanese import has just joined the fight for the U.S. car-buyer's dollar. Despite rocketing Japanese car sales in the U.S. and Western Europe over the past six years, American Isuzu Motors (AIM) adds its name to six other Japanese nameplates in selling cars in the U.S. Projected sales this year are 20,000 and 50,000 in 1982.

(Charles E. Dole, Christian Science Monitor, 3/30)

YESTERDAY'S NEWS TODAY
A SUMMARY OF PERTINENT ARTICLES FROM MAJOR U.S. DAILIES

REAGAN'S REBOUNDED SHOULD HELP PROGRAMS

No strategist would plan it this way. But both today's politicians and yesterday's history books indicate the attempted assassination of President Reagan will help more than hurt his broad legislative program. Unless long-range effects on his health are more severe than now foreseen, the President's cheerful rebound from traumatic injury also will strengthen his credibility if he seeks another term in 1984, at an age approaching 74. It would be hard for opponents to make a case of senility against a candidate who stands out in the voters' recent memory as a man able to smile and wisecrack his way into and out of emergency surgery and a close shave with death. Most key legislators and staff members of both parties predicted yesterday that sympathy for Mr. Reagan is not likely to change votes on specific items of his economic package as it moves through Congress. But if that program hits a roadblock and Mr. Reagan needs to intervene directly, or go to the people over the heads of Congress, he will be boosted by public admiration for his performance in adversity. (Ernest B. Furgurson, Baltimore Sun, 4/1)

INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO REAGAN: PRAYERS, ADMIRATION -- AND RELIEF

Running through West European reaction were sympathy for Mr. Reagan and his family; admiration for his poise, humor and bravery; and a degree of incredulity that American laws still permitted 50 million handguns to circulate far more easily than they do in Europe. The Soviets may try to make some propaganda capital out of the attack later, painting the U.S. as wracked with violence and crime. In Paris, French television broke precedent and stayed on until 1 a.m. March 31. A senior French journalist told the Christian Science Monitor, "The French government is relieved. It appreciates Reagan after four years of (a) disappointing Jimmy Carter. At last an American leader is decisive and seems to know what he wants and where he's going. Thank heavens Mr. Reagan recovered...No one here knows Bush. Who is Bush?" (David K. Willis, Christian Science Monitor, 4/1)

HAIG ACTED PROPERLY, REAGAN AIDES AGREE

Everyone who matters agreed yesterday that Secretary Haig acted properly by taking charge in the WH Monday while President Reagan's condition was in doubt. James Baker said Mr. Haig suggested the role for himself as senior cabinet officer pending the return of Vice President Bush. Mr. Baker and other officials acknowledged that there were differences between cabinet members during the six hours of the emergency. But the differences were not about who was temporarily in charge, Mr. Baker said. However, criticism of Mr. Haig continued to leak from other levels of the WH staff and from some State officials. Basically, it boiled down to the implication that, besides misstating his authority, he had over-asserted himself. (Henry Trehwitt, Baltimore Sun, 4/1)

MAJOR NEWSPAPER HEADLINES -- Thursday, April 2, 1981

THE BALTIMORE SUN

"REAGAN MAKES GOOD PROGRESS; WALKING ALREADY" (A-1)

"REAGAN'S ECONOMICS HELD FAULTY:
Plan Would Yield \$109 Billion Deficit, Panel's Study Says" (A-1)

"HINCKLEY WROTE JODIE MONDAY: 'I AM DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE:
Last-Ditch Bid to Impress Actress: Mental Tests Begin; Secrecy Granted"
(5-Column Head w/2 sub-heads/pic/A-1)

"U.S. SUPPORT OF TOBACCO FARMERS IS SAFE UNDER HELM'S SINGLE-MINDED PROTECTION"
(3-column head/pic/A-1)

"KENNEDY VOWS BID TO 'END ARMS RACE IN OUR STREETS" (A-1)

"SOLIDARITY OFFICIAL IS FIRED, ANOTHER QUILTS AFTER ACCORD" (A-1)

"DESPITE HEALING EFFORTS, WRONG CHEMISTRY IS WORKING AGAINST HAIG'S SURVIVAL
IN POST" (A-1)

WASHINGTON STAR

"REAGAN IMPROVES, PLANS A TRIP:
To Visit Calif. and Mexico in 3 Weeks: President Walking in Hospital Room"
(Banner w/2 sub-heads/pic/A-1)

"HINCKLEY UNDERGOES MENTAL TEST:
Psychiatrist Checks His Fitness for Trial" (Head w/1 sub-head/A-1)

"NEVER IN SERIOUS DANGER, DOCTOR SAYS OF PRESIDENT:
GW Spokesman Disputes Reports" (Head w/1 sub-head/A-1)

"U.S. HALTS AID TO NICARAGUA; CITES SALVADOR" (A-1)

"SECRET SERVICE GOING TO HILL IN SECURITY PROBE" (A-1)

"U.S. WON'T LET SOVIET EXPERT DEBATE ON PBS" (A-1)

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"REAGAN'S LIFE WAS IN DANGER: DOCTOR:
Serious Blood Loss Revealed" (Banner w/1 sub-head/A-1)

"PRESIDENT WALKS AND EATS SOLID FOOD" (A-1)

"HINCKLEY IS GIVEN PSYCHIATRIC TESTS" (Head/pic/A-1)

"U.S. A 'NATION OF HYPOCRITES' ON GUN LAW ACTION" (A-1)