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The Weather

| Today | Tomorrow |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| High 85 | High 79 |
| Low 47 | Low 52 |
| Chance of rain none | Chance of rain none |

Reagan recuperating after surgery

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, joking even as he was wheeled to the operating table with a bullet in his chest, survived two hours of surgery "with flying colors" and was recuperating today from a young gunman's fusillade that also gravely wounded his press secretary and two lawmen.

In fact, Reagan was doing so well after his operation that doctors said he might be able to resume presidential decision-making from his hospital bed today.

John Warnock Hinckley Jr., the 25-year-old son of a wealthy Evergreen, Colo. oilman, was seized after six shots were fired from a .22-caliber "Saturday Night Special" at the president and his party. The shooting took place on the sidewalk outside a Washington hotel where Reagan had finished a speech just before 1:30 p.m. Monday.

The husky, blond college dropout has a history of psychiatric problems. Hinckley, who has been wandering around the country for the past several months, was taken into custody by the FBI and charged with attempting to assassinate the president and assaulting a federal agent. There were no immediate indications that he had any accomplices.

Hinckley has spent most of his life in Texas and was described by acquaintances there as a quiet, friendly young man who became a loner in college. The leader of a neo-Nazi group in Chicago, the Nationalist Socialist Party of America, described Hinckley as an ex-member who was expelled because "he wanted to shoot people and blow things up."

Hinckley appeared briefly in court Monday night, was denied bond and was ordered to appear at a preliminary hearing Thursday.

The administration Reagan put together only 70 days ago closed ranks quickly. As Vice President George Bush jettied back from a Texas speaking swing, Cabinet members gathered in the White House situation room, conferring with the airborne vice president and with Reagan aides at the hospital.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said while Reagan was under anesthesia and recovering from the operation, Bush was ready to assume "command authority" under an arrangement "between the president and himself."

Although Secretary of State Alexander Haig told White

More on Reagan assassination attempt ...

More stories on the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan:

Battalion staffer Liz Newlin was in Austin Monday. Her report on the state Capitol's reaction to the shooting appears on page 2.

Battalion staffer Terry Duran interviewed students and administrators for their reactions to the Reagan shooting; his story is on page 3.

John W. Hinckley's classmates remember him as a loner; see page 7.

UPI reporter Dean Reynolds provides an eyewitness account of the assassination attempt on page 7.

The Texas Legislature held a prayer service for Reagan Monday; see page 8.

The man accused of shooting Reagan has been arrested before; see page 5.

The pistol used to shoot Reagan was purchased in a Dallas pawn shop; story on page 8.

House reporters at one point "I am in control," the spokesman said later Haig had been "coordinating" the situation and that the command authority — which he described as "military" — would have passed to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger after Bush.

After the president came out of surgery, Bush, back in the White House, appeared before reporters to declare, "I can

assure this nation and a watching world that this nation is functioning fully and normally."

Speakes said Bush would sit in for Reagan at scheduled Cabinet and other meetings today at the White House, but was not assuming the constitutional role of acting president.

Far more seriously wounded than the president were James Brady, 40, Reagan's popular press secretary, Secret

Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy, 32, and Metropolitan policeman Thomas K. Delahanty, 45.

Brady was shot in the head and underwent brain surgery at George Washington University hospital, about four blocks from the White House, at the same time doctors were operating on Reagan. His condition was extremely critical.

McCarthy, shot in the back, and Delahanty, wounded in the neck, both were reported in serious condition.

Dr. Dennis O'Leary of the Georgetown University hospital said the president, though 70 years old, walked from his car into the hospital emergency room and came through the "relatively simple" operation for removal of the small caliber bullet "with flying colors."

Reagan told his wife Nancy, who rushed to the hospital from the White House, "Honey, I forgot to duck," asked concerned aides, "Who's minding the store?" and joshed with doctors, saying, "I hope you are all Republicans" before the surgery began.

Reagan, the fifth president to be shot since Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Washington after the end of the Civil War, had just finished a speech before 4,000 delegates to a building trades union convention and was almost in his armored limousine outside the Washington Hilton hotel when the shooting began.

Emerging from the big hotel in a light rain on a mild spring afternoon, Reagan was waving to onlookers when the gunman, lurking behind a group of reporters and photographers next to a stone wall, began firing a small black handgun.

Pandemonium followed, as Reagan's guards whipped out pistols and automatic weapons. Brady and the agent fell quickly, the press secretary's head lying in a pool of blood. Agents and uniformed officers including Delahanty leaped on the assailant, burying him in bodies. The agent closest to Reagan wrapped one arm around the president's waist and with the other shoved him, doubled over, into the presidential limousine.

The big black car roared off to the hospital about a mile away, and although onlookers noted that Reagan's smile had

(See 'Reagan' page 5)

A&M budget reviewed

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

AUSTIN — Before all the excitement here Monday, the House Appropriations Committee heard Texas A&M's final request for money for the session.

The two-hour morning meeting finished budget hearings for the statewide system. Now legislators must "mark-up" the appropriations bill before it can be submitted to the House floor, and the same thing must happen in the Senate.

Rep. Bill Fresnal, chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Bryan's representative, agreed with Texas A&M officials that Monday's hearing was smoother than the one last week. During that hearing some legislators warned Texas A&M about developing an arrogant attitude and flaunting its wealth and power.

Most of those legislators weren't present during Monday's hearing.

Fresnal said final decisions will come soon, probably early next week, on the money amounts.

"Everything's a little tentative right now," he said. "We're going to have to make some real hard decisions soon."

He said the state's recommended budget is about \$500 million over projected income. Texas law prohibits spending more than is available.

Fresnal said one possibility — which he said he hasn't discussed with anyone yet — is tying some of the new requested programs to a tuition increase that the Legislature is considering. Under that plan, the program would be funded if more tuition money is available, but scratched if it is not. He said other programs had been tentatively funded that way.

Although Texas A&M officials were pleased with Monday's reception, a hearing set today marks the formal beginning of another battle in the Legislature — one that could significantly change Texas A&M's funding.

The House Committee on Constitutional Amendments is scheduled to hear testimony on seven different proposals to change distribution of the Permanent University Fund and its profits, the Available University Fund.

Rep. Hamp Atkinson, D-New Boston and a member of the committee, said he expects all the proposals to be referred to a subcommittee. That action would probably delay consideration of the widely differing bills, which range from a proposal to create a new tax for university construction to dividing up the PUF among more schools. The PUF is a \$1.2 billion-plus endowment based on oil-rich land in West Texas; returns from investments of the fund are split between the University of Texas System and Texas A&M.

Texas A&M, though, is thought to have an advantage in the battle since several leaders of the House and Senate are Aggies and Aggie-supporters, including Speaker of the House Bill Clayton.

Oscars postponed due to shooting

United Press International

HOLLYWOOD — The producer of the 53rd Academy Awards is confident most of the star-studded guests invited to the show will "pull together" and attend tonight's gala, delayed one day by the shooting of President Reagan.

Still pending is a White House decision on whether a videotape Reagan recorded in Washington several weeks ago will be used as part of the ABC-TV broadcast. Network and government officials were expected to confer on the matter today.

Setting aside the tradition of "the show must go on," the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced four hours after Reagan was shot that the awards show Monday night was being postponed "in deference to the tragedy in Washington."

The decision affected an estimated 300 million television viewers in 66 nations and some 2,900 guests invited to the gala at the Los Angeles Music Center.

The ceremony was rescheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. PST (10 p.m. EST), the show's producer, Norman Jewison, said.



Staff photo by Liz Newlin

U.S. Rep. Bill Archer, D-Houston, talks with reporters in Austin Monday. Archer was flying with

Vice President George Bush when word of the attempt on President Reagan's life reached Bush.

Archer recounts mood on board Air Force II

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

AUSTIN — Flying on Air Force II, U.S. Rep. Bill Archer paid little attention to the vice president as tapes of President Reagan's shooting replayed on the color television in the plane.

"I'll have to say honestly that I was watching the television more than I was watching the vice president," the Houston Republican said Monday afternoon. "Maybe because this is a semi-historic moment I should've been paying more attention to what the vice president looked like."

Archer, though, was more interested in learning what had happened in Washington, and the network feed to the plane had accurate information. The plane, originally designed by then-President Lyndon Johnson, has a sophisticated communications system. Alexander Haig, the secretary of state, first told Vice President George Bush that the president hadn't been hurt.

Bush had just finished a speech in Fort Worth and was flying to Austin.

"It was 20 minutes to 2," Archer recalled, "and we were airborne for maybe 10 minutes when a Secret Service man told us there'd been an attempt on the president's life and two service men were down. That was the original report," Archer said during an interview after a Capitol prayer service.

"It was very fragmentary, but the report was the president was unharmed and Bush was concerned about the attempt but pleased the president hadn't been touched. There was no information available to the vice president or any of us on the plane. The fact that the president had been shot came much later in the trip."

About 10 minutes before landing in Austin, they learned the president had been hit.

"After it became apparent the president had been shot the decision was made in the air to touch down in Austin and refuel and go immediately back to Washington, D.C.," said Archer, who'd made the whole trip with Bush. The vice president did not leave the plane during the 40

minutes it was in Austin. Gov. and Mrs. Bill Clements and Secretary of State George Strake boarded the plane, and Clements later reported on that meeting to the Legislature.

Before the news, Archer said the vice president was in a good mood.

After the news, the mood on the plane changed considerably.

"People were mainly subdued. And I would say maybe that's a good term to describe the vice president too." Although he could talk to Haig by phone, the vice president stayed in the main cabin of the airplane, where the 18-inch color television was.

Bush's first reaction was worry, Archer said.

"His response was of immediate considerable concern although the report that we got did not lead us to believe that it was that serious, that the president had fairly walked into the hospital and that the president did not even know that he'd been shot," Archer said.

"But the vice president was extremely concerned. He and president Reagan have an excellent personal relationship, they've become very personal friends. He was terribly concerned about the president's condition, not just as president but as another human being, as a friend."

Bush didn't mention taking over the president's duties, Archer said, but did talk about security.

"He (Bush) did say that people have been critical of the Secret Service sometimes for the over-precautions they seem to take, and he said that now we know that perhaps even more needs to be done."

Archer praised the Secret Service and agreed with Bush.

"It does seem to me that when the president appears in public that it's going to be necessary to keep people who've not been securely checked a farther distance from the president," the representative said, "because whoever shot him got 10 to 15 feet within the president, and anyone could have under the circumstances without any kind of security check."

Contender: No comment on A&M job

One of the candidates under consideration for the presidency of Texas A&M University had no comment Monday afternoon regarding his candidacy.

"I don't make any comments about anyone's (presidential) searches," Dr. Steven B. Sample said in a telephone interview from his office in Lincoln, Neb. Sample is executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska.

Sample's name, along with those of Dr. Arthur Hansen, president of Furde University, and Dr. James D. McComas, president of Mississippi State University, recently surfaced from among the candidates under consideration for the president's position.

The fourth person known to be under consideration is Dr. Jack E. Freeman, senior vice chancellor for administration at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sample visited the Texas A&M campus last week, speaking to University officials about the position. He has his bachelor's, master's and doctorate in electrical engineering.

The University president's position opened when the Board of Regents fired Dr. Jarvis Miller in July. Dr. Charles Samson has been acting president since then.

Board Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright has said a new president will be selected by September at the latest.

Supplement leaves out Ward I names

Six candidates for off-campus Ward I student senator were inadvertently left out of Monday's election supplement to The Battalion.

In addition to those listed, Mike Meyer, Dale Collins, Chris Cleveland, Robert Licon, Chris Duncan and Stephen Geistweidt are also vying for the Ward I seat.

Polling places for spring student body elections will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. today and Wednesday.

The five primary polling places will be set up outside the Memorial Student Center, Sbis Dining Hall, the Commons, the Guard Room and Sterling C. Evans Library.

Fourth name is added for Taps

The name of a fourth Texas A&M University student has been added to the list for the Silver Taps ceremony April 7.

In the traditional ceremony, students honor classmates who have died.

Tulio Ruben Pena, 19, a freshman from Laredo, died March 25 from injuries he received in an automobile accident Feb. 28. Pena had been in a coma in a Houston hospital since the incident. He was a general studies major.

Three other Texas A&M students were killed during the spring holidays in separate traffic accidents. They were Glenn W. Mitchell Jr., a freshman from Austin; Bob L. Boyles Jr., a sophomore from Crosby; and Don Lee Munsell, a freshman from Andrews.