

The STM found an 18-yard silk ribbon lasted her as long as six months. Nylon apparently doesn't come that long for her machine (same as yours) and the 14-yard jobs she's been using last her between four and five months.

Dr. Lungren: You are correct in your thinking that the Nixon family and Dr. Tkach have been notably scarce around the Nixon ruins. Especially Tkach. After coming out with Nixon after his resignation, Tkach just disappeared, finally turned up back in Washington, and we've never seen any explanation as to just when he went back or why except one vague indication that ~~he~~ he had another Air Force assignment. We assume he may have balked at doing what Nixon appears to have got Lungren to do. As to the family, Pat and the girls were photographed a few times around the hospital, going or coming, but that's all except for one inane thing Julie once said to a reporter or reporters. Tricia silent. Pat silent.

Lungren's medical bulletins have been curiously vague and usually omit some essential element of the medical picture which would give other doctors a real clue to Nixon's actual condition. There also seems to be a genuine and close correlation between some of Lungren's (or Ziegler's) more ~~and~~ dramatic hints about Nixon's sad state and developments in court ~~in~~ back at the Watergate trial in Washington. The most amusing was just after Maximum John announced he would name a panel of three docs to go west and verify Nixon's ability or inability to testify. Nixon suddenly improved enough to leave the hospital and return to San Clemente.

He had to improve -- at least to the point where the independent doctors would verify his actual condition. Assuming they ever get to examine him.

No, you are not wrong in sensing a perverse self-destructiveness. The apparent sequence of developments after his resignation suggests strongly that he brought on his new round of clotting himself, most probably by not taking his prescribed anti-coagulant drugs. He may not even have told Lungren, ~~and~~ with the possible result that the subsequent round of anti-coagulants when he got into the hospital represented what amounted to an overdose, which led to his internal bleeding episode which furnished so much mileage for Ziegler. We strongly suspect that Nixon literally would rather die than testify. It may be entirely unthought-out and subconscious with him, but it cannot be improbable. As he more and more loses control of the situation (such as the joint motion by the WH, GSA, the Secret Service and the prosecution to retain all the tapes ~~and~~ documents within ready access despite Nixon's contract with Ford, and such as the several bills in Congress to effect much ~~of~~ the same thing) and realizes his loss of control, he cannot fail to be affected.

The various stories on the whole situation make one thing clear -- that Lungren says nothing not approved by Nixon. We think we detected one thing Lungren said one day -- I forget now what it was -- but where the next day he hastily corrected himself, and presumably after being properly chewed out for saying it in the first place.

The reporters are handling the story well. Repeatedly they obviously consult independent doctors on Lungren's bulletins and do not hesitate to point out where he has omitted vital evidence or has blown some routine detail up into a big deal of some kind. The other docs are obviously skeptical and say so indirectly in many ways. The interesting thing is that the reporters are reporting their reservations.

10/10/74

We have no quarrel with your ~~last~~ memo (I think you means 10/11) on the WXPost reporting of Watergate and on ~~Water~~ ~~Thompson's~~ piece in Rolling Stone. We sent the Pink piece