

Nixon home from hospital

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LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Richard M. Nixon, in a wheelchair with his phlebitis-stricken left leg propped up, left the hospital Friday.

Travel restrictions imposed by his doctor made it unlikely that he would take the witness stand anytime soon in the Watergate coverup trial in Washington.

"An extreme potential danger still remains," said Nixon's doctor, John C. Lungren. He said Nixon, 61, was "literally physically exhausted" from the tests he has undergone since being hospitalized Sept. 23.

Lungren said the former president must take an anticoagulant drug for at

least several months for his phlebitis. Lungren said that while taking the drug, Nixon is in danger of hemorrhaging if he should suffer an injury or "physical trauma of any kind," such as an ulcer.

Lungren held a news conference 30 minutes after Nixon lifted himself from the wheelchair and into a waiting black limousine to be whisked away with to the seclusion of his San Clemente estate.

"I would say that the time of him being able to travel safely would be from one to three months depending upon how well he responds to the anticoagulation, whether he develops any complications and whether or not he has any recurrence," the doctor said.

Nixon must restrict his physical activity during this period, Lungren said. He can walk around freely within limits and "must not spend a protracted period of sitting in a car or airplane," the physician said. He said Nixon agreed to his doctor's orders.

Of Nixon's condition, he said, "I think after being up all night going to the bathroom, losing sleep, having repeated tests, I would say his condition is worse than when he first came in."

Before his arrival in Long Beach, Nixon said he feared that he would "never come out alive" if he entered a hospital.