



# Memphis Press

U.S. WEATHER FORECAST: Partly cloudy tonight and tomorrow with a chance of show

94TH YEAR—NO. 309

MEMPHIS, TENN., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1974

## Nixon's Leg Surgery

LONG BEACH, Calif. — (UPI) — Former President Richard M. Nixon underwent successful surgery today to block the spread of blood clots which had threatened his life.

Nixon's doctors said the surgery was "uneventful" and the 61-year-old former President's condition was "stable" following the operation which lasted a little more than one hour.

Nixon's personal physician, Dr. John C. Lungren, ordered the surgery late Monday night when new tests disclosed a large clot in Nixon's left hip, above those previously discovered in the left leg. The new clot was closer to an artery which leads directly to the heart.

Lungren, who character-

ized the operation as a "success," said the five-man surgical team inserted a permanent plastic clip across the iliac vein in the left groin area.

The operation took about one hour and was "an uneventful procedure," according to the head of the team, Dr. Eldon B. Hickman.

**"Mr. Nixon is doing well.** He is in stable condition in his room now, undergoing normal postoperative care and is somewhat sleepy," Hickman said.

"We placed what is known as a mild clip to partially occlude but not completely occlude the vessel.

"We could readily palpate (feel) the clot. We anticipate the usual postoperative recovery problems."

Hickman said that would

include special diets, intravenous administration of medicine and anticoagulants.

Hickman said doctors "do not anticipate any more surgery."

**In addition to Hickman and Lungren,** two assistant surgeons and one anaesthiologist took part in the operation.

Lungren said Nixon would have to wear a plastic support on the lower portion of his left leg and would remain in the hospital for about one week and then be under postoperative care at his San Clemente home for another four to six weeks.

The operation was performed on the first floor of the hospital and then Nixon was returned to his room in the new intensive care unit on the seventh floor.

Lungren made a sudden decision Monday night to operate after tests showed "a fresh and active clot" in the left leg.

**Hickman said the clots in the thigh will either dissolve eventually or Nixon will develop alternative circulation routes.**

In any event, he indicated, the clip should "permanently" solve the threat of clots breaking loose and reaching the heart and lungs.

A hospital spokesman said

additional tests will be performed on Nixon's leg later this week. The tests, similar to the ones which discovered the new clot, involve removing blood, mixing it with radioactive substances and then replacing it in Nixon's veins and monitoring it with a Geiger counter to detect any new clotting.

**Before the operation,** Lungren said there was "some-what more risk than normal" because Nixon's blood had been thinned for more than one month to prevent clotting.

But, following the surgery, Lungren said there was no problem with the bleeding.

The "urgent surgery" was needed, Lungren told newsmen at a news conference early today, because if the blood clot broke loose and floated into Nixon's heart it would block circulation and kill him.

A small clot found its way to Nixon's right lung in August, but blocked off only a dime-sized area of lung tissue and responded to drug treatment.

**Nixon's wife, Pat, was believed to have arrived at the hospital a few hours before the operation.** Lungren said he spoke to her early today.

Hickman, head of the operating team, is a vascu-

## Market Scores Heavy Advance

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The stock market romped ahead today with some encouragement from a continued decline in the bank prime lending rate.

The 3:30 p.m. EST Dow Jones average of 30 industrials was up 20.41 at 654.25.

Brokers noted expectations

of a continuing decline in the prime and in the free-market short-term interest rates which determine it. A good number of investors today evidently were operating on the theory that that downturn would, sooner or later, create a flow of funds from interest-bearing investments into stocks.

# Scimitar

ers. (Details on Page 2.)

**FINAL  
EDITION**

**Dow Jones Industrial**

**Averages: Up 20.41**

**At 3:30 P.M. EST**

**Markets on Pages 5X, 5Y, 6**

**PRICE FIFTEEN CENTS**

TELEPHONES: NEWS AND GENERAL 526-2141  
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## Is Successful

lar surgeon and professor of surgery at UCLA Medical School. He was to be assisted by Lungren and Dr. Wiley Barker, also a UCLA Medical School surgery professor.

The phlebitis condition that is the source of Nixon's ailment is a vein disorder that doctors said goes back to 1965. It did not cause Nixon noticeable problems until his Middle Eastern tour in June, when he was seen limping.

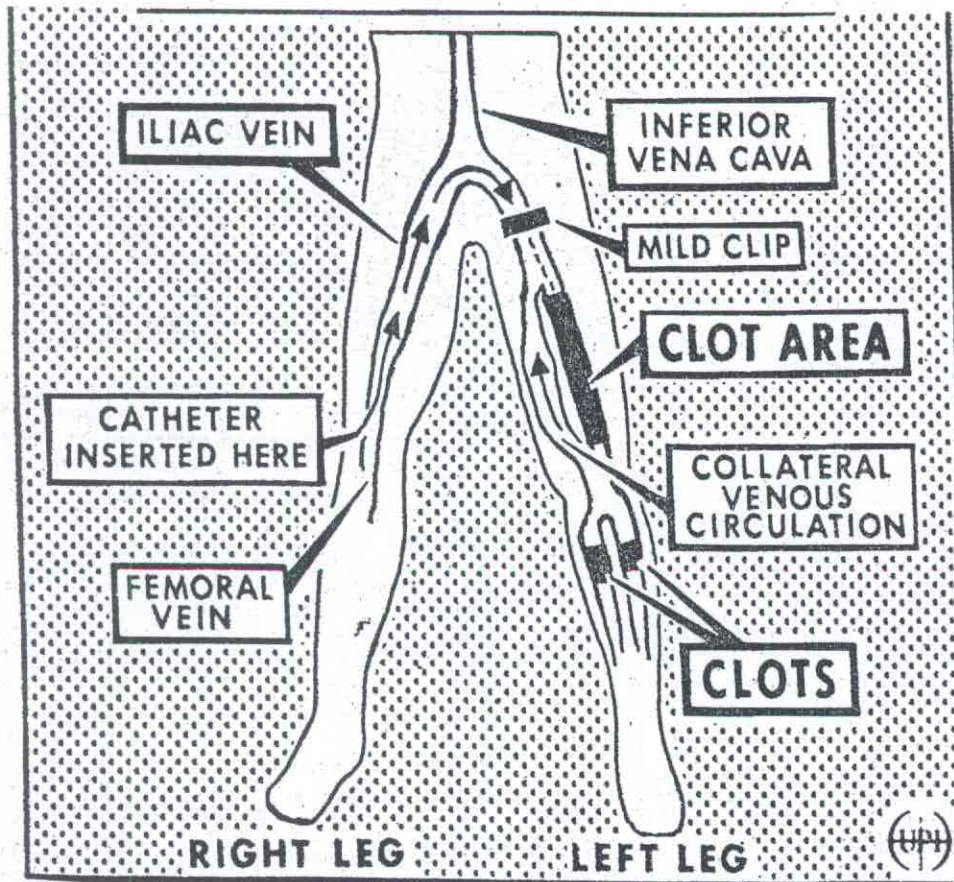
The condition had become more troublesome by the time Nixon was forced out of office by Watergate, but for weeks he resisted entering a hospital. He finally gave in to the urgings of his doctors and family.

Ron Ziegler, once Nixon's press secretary and now his top aide, said Sunday that his mood at learning he faced more hospitalization "was not one of joy."

He said Nixon "had lost eight to 10 pounds" since his first hospitalization.

The latest development appeared to rule out any chance of Nixon appearing to testify at the Watergate cover-up trial of his former top aides in Washington.

Lungren had warned earlier that "if surgery is required, Nixon will be unavailable over the long haul."



### SURGERY PERFORMED ON FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON

Tests to determine whether Nixon had additional clots in the iliac vein and inferior vena cava involved pushing a thin tube (catheter) through veins in his right leg, then through a connecting vein into his left leg to a point just above a massive clot in his thigh. As tube was pushed through, an iodine solution was released so the veins could be clearly outlined by X-rays. In surgery, a mild clip, used to partly block the iliac vein, was inserted.

United Press International Telephoto Drawing