

Nixon Depressed

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon is in physical pain and remains "way down, very depressed" despite the presidential pardon he received, a member of his family reports.

The ex-president's condition is said to be worrying his wife and family.

This family member sought out a telephone interview on Tuesday night saying, "This is something someone should talk about," but asked not to be identified by name.

Nixon has seen and spoken with this individual both before and since resigning Aug. 9. They had a telephone conversation as recently as Monday night.

This family member disclosed that:

—Nixon is suffering from a recurrence of his phlebitis condition which had been publicly described as resolved on July 5.

—The former president does not talk about his physical problems with his family members, who first learned of the phlebitis last summer, not from Nixon, but from his doctors.

—Nixon has made no plans or decisions about returning to the public arena.

—He is reconsidering his announcement of last Dec. 10 that he would eventually give the San Clemente estate to the American people. This is part of his current preoccupation

with getting his personal affairs in order.

Referring to the pardon, this family member said, "You'd think he would be very happy with recent events, but he's still in a letdown period."

"Emotionally, he's still way down, very depressed. He is in a deep depression."

"I would hope the pardon would eventually lift that but I just haven't noticed that. There was no sudden elation."

Nixon's emotional depression was said to be aggravating his physical problems and vice versa.

"It's not that he's not sharp. He grasps things as quickly as ever. But the mental letdown plays on the physical problems. Each plays on the other and that cycle makes both worse."

After the resignation, the family drove north to Ventura, Calif., one day and had a picnic on the beach.

"He was relieved to get out of the car, but after the picnic said it would be best to go back. We had planned to stay overnight and go further north and I knew he wanted to," this family member said. "But he couldn't continue because of the pain in his leg."

The phlebitis, a blood clot which developed in his left leg shortly before his June trip to the Middle East, has left the leg "swollen out of proportion to the other leg," this individual said.