

Nixon Continues To Gain

Doctors Allow
Orally Taken
Liquid Diet

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LONG BEACH, Calif.,
Nov. 2—Former President
Nixon continued to show
improvement today for the
second straight day.

Doctors allowed him to take
liquid nourishment by mouth
for the first time since his
operation Tuesday, but they
kept him on the critical list
for fear of further complica-
tions.

"There are some things that
are looking up," said Norman
R. Nager, public relations con-
sultant at Long Beach Mem-
orial Hospital here.

"The doctors are obviously
still concerned about the
dangers to their patient. As
long as there are imminent,
possible dangers to the man
he will be on the critical list,"
Nager continued.

The medical bulletin issued
by Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr.
Nixon's chief physician, said
the former President spent "a
fairly restful night." His vital
signs — pulse, respiration,
blood pressure and tempera-
ture — were reported as
"stable and satisfactory." They
had been reported within or
close to normal level Friday.

Lungren said President
Ford's visit to Mr. Nixon Fri-
day "was a therapeutic boost."

Today's medical bulletin re-
ported that there have been
no further signs since Thurs-
day night of internal bleeding
— the cause of shock that
brought Mr. Nixon to the
brink of death hours after sur-
gery.

The doctors said his red
blood cell count "is holding at
a satisfactory level" although
he has not received any blood
transfusions in the past 24

hours. Since going into shock,
Mr. Nixon has received six
pints of blood.

"There are no indications of
continued oozing of blood, and
the hematoma, or mass of
blood, in his left flank (upper
thigh) shows no evidence of
enlarging."

See NIXON, A3, Col. 1

Nixon's Condition Continues to Improve

NIXON, From A1

Mr. Nixon's blood had been
thinned with anti-coagulant
drugs before the operation to
prevent the formation of clots
in his phlebitis-stricken left
leg. These clots could break
loose and travel to the lungs,
where they could cause death.

The operation — the placing
of a clothes-in-like plastic clip
on the exterior iliac vein at its
intersection with the interior
iliac vein — was done to pre-
vent clots from getting to the
lungs.

Nager said today that se-

lected venograph studies
showed that there were no
clots above the location where
the clips were placed.

The doctors are walking a
medical tightrope in an effort
to keep Mr. Nixon's blood thin
enough to prevent clotting but
not so thin that tissue cut in
the surgery will fail to clot
and will instead "ooze" blood.

The hospital spokesman to-
day contradicted previous
statements that Mr. Nixon was
receiving heparin, an anti-co-
agulating drug, at the time he
was operated on. Before the
operation, he had been receiv-
ing heparin by injection every
six hours.

Nager said today that doc-
tors told him there was no
need to give Mr. Nixon prota-
mine sulfate, the drug that
counteracts the effects of he-
parin, before the operation be-
cause he was not receiving the
anti-clotting drug at the time.

Immediately after the oper-
ation, the chief surgeon, Dr.
Eldon Hickman, had said that
"heparin therapy is continu-
ing." And 12 hours following
the operation, after Mr. Nixon
had gone into shock from loss
of blood, Dr. Lungren said the
heparin treatment had been
"relaxed."

Specialists in vein surgery
and blood problems who are
not connected with the case
said that continued heparin
treatment is a very unusual
procedure. They said the rea-
son it was followed might
have been because the former
President's doctors were more
concerned about additional
life-threatening clots forming
than they were about post op-
erative internal bleeding.

Today's medical bulletin
said Mr. Nixon is still con-
fined to his bed. In order to
prevent lung congestion his
doctors said they told him to
cough frequently and to
breathe deeply.