

'Father's Health Isn't *F Post* That Bad,' Julie Says *9-17-74*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Privately, Julie Nixon Eisenhower indicated to a close family friend that her father's health "isn't as bad as news reports suggest." Publicly, Mrs. Eisenhower says her father would be better off in a hospital than at home.

"It would certainly be better for him to be in a hospital, but if he's happy at home, maybe that's best," Mrs. Eisenhower said in a telephone interview Monday.

Asked whether she or her mother had urged the former president to follow his doctor's recommendation that he enter the hospital for treatment of phlebitis, Mrs. Eisenhower said, "I don't want to comment on that.

"I've talked to him by phone and his spirits are good. And he told me he is taking his medicine. I'm going out to see him this week. We're keeping on top of things."

A close friend of the Nixon family said Mrs. Eisenhower indicated to this person Sunday that Nixon's health "isn't nearly as bad as the news stories suggest." The person said, however, that attempts to reach Mrs. Nixon have been unsuccessful for the past 10 days.

In California, another close friend of the Nixons said, "Mrs.

Nixon should be allowed privacy at this point ... Dr. (Walter) Tkach should have kept his cotton pickin' mouth shut."

Newsweek magazine quoted Tkach as saying that Nixon's phlebitis condition has deteriorated until "It's going to take a miracle for him to recover ..."

Tkach added that Nixon's condition is so critical that he did not discuss the situation with Pat Nixon "for fear of frightening her," Newsweek said.

"I guess she'll read this now, and I guess that's good," Tkach said in the article published Sunday. He went on to say that he recommended to Nixon that he be hospitalized and begin intravenous treatment with anti-coagulants that could prevent clots and keep the blood flowing."

Nixon reportedly told Tkach, "If I go into the hospital, I'll never come out alive."