

FPost
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Nixon continues to improve

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon was beating the pneumonia in his partially collapsed right lung and his general condition continued to improve, his doctor said Thursday.

The pneumonitis, apparently responsible for partial but nonserious collapse of the lung, was "responding well to antibiotic therapy and resolving," Dr. John C. Lungren said in his written daily report on Nixon.

Lungren added that Nixon's heart rate was no longer being monitored.

Nixon's heart had been monitored by a cardiograph at all times since he went into nearfatal shock after phlebitis surgery last week, the doctor said. "His cardiological status to date has been remarkably stable through all com-

plications," Lungren said.

However, the 61-year-old Nixon remained in subintensive, or serious, condition at Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, and there was no indication when Nixon could go home to his seaside villa in San Clemente.

In Washington, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica said Nixon's testimony in the Watergate coverup trial may have to be taken on videotape in California.

Sirica made the comment after Nixon's attorney, Herbert J. Miller, reported that it will be at least two or three months before Nixon could exert any "substantial mental or physical effort." Nixon has been subpoenaed by both the prosecution and defense.

Sirica said, however, that he had made no final decision on how to get Nixon's testimony.

Nixon told aide Ron Ziegler on Tuesday that he would be in the hospital for two more weeks. Miller told Sirica that Nixon was likely to remain hospitalized for another 10 days or two weeks.

Lungren said fluid in Nixon's left lung continued to decrease. Both the fluid and pneumonia were believed after-effects of the surgery.

"Former President Nixon continues to improve; his signs are stable," Lungren said. "We're gradually increasing his activity." This apparently meant Nixon would take more walks around his hospital room.