

Nixon Beat Prophecy Of Death in Hospital

By Stuart Auerbach
and Robert Myers

Washington Post Staff Writers

LONG BEACH, Calif.—The only person to spot former President Nixon entering Memorial Hospital here on his latest visit was garbage collector Ray Mackey, who was sorting trash at the hospital entrance. He called several local newspapers and television stations. They refused to believe him.

"I know my President," Mackey insisted.

Finally, a news agency confirmed that Nixon had entered the hospital at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 23. Mackey went home to change

clothes before consenting to interviews before the television cameras.

That visit to Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, which nearly became Nixon's last when he went into shock from internal bleeding after surgery, was the third he made to the hospital.

The first was on Jan. 2, 1969, just before his first inauguration as President. His long-time personal physician, John C. Lungren, gave him a complete physical, pronounced him fit for the job and turned him over to the new White House physi-

cian, Air Force Dr. Walter Tkach.

Nixon chose the hospital because Lungren practiced there. Lungren's office is in one of the many buildings filled with doctors that surround the hospital in this smoggy industrial city with its oil wells, docks and shipyards.

The hospital is a modern, 820-bed facility whose press releases boast that it is "the largest non-government, not-for-profit medical center on the West Coast."

Its facilities are among the most modern in the

See HOSPITAL, G3, Col. 1



DR. JOHN C. LUNGREN
... Nixon physician

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1974

NATIONAL NEWS

G1

Albert and Presidency

By William McGaffin
Chicago Daily News Service

House Speaker Carl Albert is "not afraid" to be President, his aides say.

"He does not want to be President," they say. "He would rather be Speaker of the House. But he recognizes it as a responsibility of his office that he has become next in line. He is not scared of it. He feels that he is qualified to be President."

The Oklahoma Democrat, 66, who is sometimes called

the "little giant" of the House because he is only 5 feet 4 inches tall, was "uptight" last year during the 60 days after Spiro T. Agnew resigned and before Gerald R. Ford was confirmed as Vice President, according to his aides.

"This gave rise mistakenly to the idea that he was afraid to be President," they said. "He was not afraid but he was uptight because he was involved in both the confirmation and the im-

peachment. He did not want to give the impression that he was trying to steal the presidency."

Albert also felt at that time, the aides said, that it would be terribly divisive for the country if a Democrat were to take over the presidency after the Nixon landslide.

"This year, the Speaker is in a much easier frame of mind because he knows that

See ALBERT, G3, Col. 7



SPEAKER CARL ALBERT
... life changes again

Possible Succession Leaves Albert Unafraid

ALBERT, From G1

President Ford is in good health," the aides said. "All he is thinking about now is the confirmation of Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President."

Albert's life has changed again, as it did last year, now that he has become next in line for the presidency.

The Secret Service moved in on him, this time on the night of Aug. 8 as he was sitting alone in his private Capitol office, H-205, listening to President Nixon announce to a nationwide television audience that he would resign on the morrow.

Ever since then, Secret Service agents have been stationed in the semi-private corridor leading to the private office. Intermingled with them are plainclothesmen from the Capitol police force to identify congressional visitors, Albert staff people and others with appointments so they will not be embarrassed by having to stop and identify themselves.

Secret Service agents stand guard outside the door of his apartment in suburban Arlington, operating out of a command post in the building. And his lim-

ousine is tailed by a car full of Secret Service agents.

To help prepare him for the presidency if he should have to assume it, the Ford administration is keeping Albert abreast of foreign policy developments. An intelligence officer visits his office every day with the CIA foreign policy briefing.

Albert probably is one of the hardest-working members of Congress. He arrives on Capitol Hill at 7:30 a.m. and does not get home, for dinner with his wife, Mary, until 7:30 or 8 p.m.

The two have dinner alone. Son David is a sophomore at Harvard and daughter Mary Frances has her own apartment and teaches at the National Cathedral School.

Albert works seven days a week and is "very tired" now, according to his aides, because he has not taken a day of vacation since Aug. 9 when he was catapulted into the No. 2 position for the nation's highest job.

His aides say he would take a vacation if the Secret Service agents did not have to go along, "but he does not think that the government should spend money protecting him while he is enjoying himself."

HOSPITAL, From G3

normally a heavy smoker, was consuming cigarettes at such a rate that other doctors joked that he must be eating them.

While the nation's most famous patient was in the hospital, all hospital personnel—including the woman who runs the flower shop—were specifically banned from talking about him.

Questions were referred to the hospital public relations office, run by Norman R. Nager, who admits he has little knowledge of medicine.

The medical bulletins written by Nager and Lungren were often vague and ambiguous, although they were the only source of information for days. Thus, bulletins on the day immediately after Nixon went into shock left unanswered the crucial question of whether Nixon was conscious.

Dr. Lungren, who values his privacy as well as that of his patient, disliked talking to the press. He was also reluctant to call in consultants.

When Nixon had complex blood problems, no specialists in hematology were called in. When the former President developed pneumonia, no pulmonary experts were consulted.

At one point, Lungren described himself as "an old-timer" who makes decisions based on "clinical judgments as much as I do (on) graphs and a few other studies."

During most of his second hospitalization, Nixon was the only patient on the hospital's unopened seventh floor, which is to be devoted entirely to severely ill patients requiring intensive care.

His view from the hospital bed was bleak. But at least by the time he left, Nixon had twice beaten his own pessimistic prediction that he would never get out of the hospital alive.

HOSPITAL, From G1

area, and the hospital administration provides the latest medical devices for doctors who practice there.

Nixon's second visit to the hospital began Sept. 23 after care. Still seeking the privacy he apparently craved after resigning from the presidency Aug. 9, Nixon had eluded dozens of reporters assembled in the pre-dawn fog to record his departure from his San Clemente estate for the Long Beach hospital.

Via a triple-locked steel and wire gate and a dirt road running through the Coast Guard station next to the estate, the Nixon party was able to drive onto the San Diego Freeway unseen by reporters. He was driven up a service truck ramp to a rear entrance of the hospital. He wore a gray business suit, and limped slightly as he entered the hospital to begin what Lungren called

"extensive studies" of his thrombophlebitis, or blood clots in the swollen veins of his left leg.

Lungren announced two days later that a small clot, called an embolus, had been discovered in Mr. Nixon's upper right lung, where it had moved from his left leg. The clot, perhaps the size of a pinhead, and the dime-sized area it had damaged were not considered life-threatening. But more clots could threaten Nixon's life, and the anti-coagulating drug heparin was given intravenously.

On Oct. 4, Nixon was released from the hospital and driven to San Clemente. He was told to take another anti-clotting drug, Coumadin, by mouth and given Vitamin K pills in case he started bleeding too much. He was also given a card stating that he was a patient on anticoagulant drugs.

Nixon was readmitted to the hospital Oct. 23 because blood samples drawn at San

Clemente showed that the Coumadin was not working.

The possibility of clotting was worrisome, and a potentially dangerous, but a highly accurate test called a venogram was begun. Dyes are injected into the vein and monitored by X-ray. The venogram is designed to locate clots, but the dye can dislodge one and the clot could move within minutes to the lungs, lodge there and cause death.

The results were serious. Dr. Scott H. M. Driscoll was later to describe the veins in Nixon's lower left leg as "99 and 44/100 per cent clotted." The veins were so clotted, in fact, that in the first venogram the dye couldn't get to the upper leg.

The second venogram, made the next day, revealed the presence of a clot "which endangers Mr. Nixon's life," Lungren said. Surgery was set for the next day, to give Mr. Nixon and

his surgeon, Dr. Eldon Hickman, a good night's rest.

At 5:30 on the morning of Oct. 29 the former President was wheeled into surgery. The 17-minute operation to place a clip blocking clots from traveling up the vein seemed simple, and later that morning was termed "uneventful" and "successful."

It is common practice in American medicine to get patients up and around as soon as possible after surgery. Nixon was no exception. But unknown to his doctors and nurses, blood had been oozing internally from the surgical cuts in his thigh ever since the operation had ended. He had lost at least four pints of blood — one-third to one-half of all the blood in a normal man's body. So, when the specially trained intensive care nurse and medical corpsmen moved Nixon from a prone position to get him out of bed, at about 12:45 p.m., the massive loss of blood threw

him into shock that brought him to the brink of death.

"He stated that he felt very weak," nurse Andrea Evanson recalled. "I checked his blood pressure. It had dropped considerably from previous levels. His respiratory rate increased. His pulse rate increased likewise."

"These are the classic indications of cardio-vascular shock," she said.

In seconds, Miss Evanson said, she got Nixon back into bed, lowered the head of his bed flat to get the blood to flow to his brain, gave him oxygen and increased the rate of fluid flowing into his veins. Then she called his doctors.

Lungren credited her quick action with saving Nixon's life. For Miss Evanson, the crisis was over. But the doctors spent the next 1½ hours trying to figure out what happened — something they are still not sure about.



RICHARD M. NIXON
... leaving hospital

Connie E. Hamilton, the nurse in charge of intensive care, still feels butterflies in her stomach when she thinks of those critical hours. Dr. Hickman, who operated on Nixon, couldn't eat or sleep for days after the former president went into shock. Hickman, who is

See HOSPITAL, G8, Col. 1

By Charles Lewis

BOSTON (AP)—James D. St. Clair says he doesn't think Watergate means future Presidents will be forced out of office, but it was a spark that allowed Congress to regain some of its power.

The break-in and bugging at the Democratic National Committee headquarters by itself "was probably a regrettable incident of no lasting significance," Richard M. Nixon's Watergate lawyer said.

But it gained historic significance when it became "an occasion wherein an adjustment in the balances of power between the Congress and the executive was taking place," he said in an interview.

"But I don't believe that Watergate will necessarily foreshadow a series of attacks on future Presidents, resulting in their resignation or removal, as some people, I think, fear might be the result. It seems to me the American people are sufficiently appalled by such a thought that it's not likely to happen again, and certainly I hope it won't."

St. Clair said Watergate produced at least four benefits.

First, it focused public attention on government and the relationships between the branches of government.

Second, the scandal produced a Supreme Court decision that upholds executive privilege, with the exception that the privilege cannot prohibit disclosure of alleged criminal misconduct.

Third, it increased the legal profession's sensitivity to its ethical responsibilities. And fourth, it provided the impetus to improve the electoral process.

On the negative side, Watergate led to the first presidential resignation, "a precedent that is undesirable," he said.

"Our form of government has prided itself on its stability within each term of the office. This was the first instance of lack of such stability within the office of the presidency."

St. Clair reviewed Watergate during a two-hour retrospective interview in his small, modern office here where he is a senior partner in a leading law firm.

He agreed to the interview with the understanding that the attorney-client privilege would not allow him to discuss confidential matters affecting his former client Richard Nixon. In addition, he requested that the inter-

view await the sequestration of the jury in the Watergate cover-up trial now under way in Washington.

Here are some of the questions and answers:

Q. Why did you take the Watergate case?

A. Because I thought it was an important matter and appropriate for a lawyer to undertake. I felt I was competent to handle the matters as I understood them at the time, and my experience was such that it would be something I would probably be qualified to deal with, if anyone was.

Q. How were you selected?

A. I can only say that I understand my name came to Gen. Alexander M. Haig's attention from a number of sources, not all of which I can identify. I believe one of them to be David Shapiro, who is Mr. Colson's lawyer. Former White House aide (Charles W. Colson.)

Q. Had you ever met Mr. Nixon before?

A. Not any more than shaking hands with him among a group of people on one or two occasions. Certainly not on any basis where we had anything but slight conversations.

Q. How would you describe the role the White House tapes played?

A. Very critical.

Q. Was it a mistake to install the tapes?

A. Well, I think it would be very easy to answer that "Yes," but I'm not sure that would be a very thoughtful answer. . . . In some respects I suppose it was a mistake, in a very limited sense. On the other hand, for better or for worse, they are a primary record of events from which we may draw a great deal of value.

Q. Could President Nixon have lawfully destroyed the tapes after their existence was revealed in June, 1973?

A. Well, would that have been an obstruction of justice? Would it have been a destruction of evidence in a pending criminal investigation? I never have thoroughly researched the point, but my judgment is that it probably would not have been a technical violation of the statutes that deal with the obstruction of justice.

Q. Would you have advised him to destroy the tapes if you had been his counsel when the taping system was disclosed?

A. Probably not. I generally do not believe the destruction of even material that might become evidence

is the thing to do, whether or not is an obstruction of justice. . . . At the time of a pending Senate investigation, whether or not it would have been an obstruction of justice, I don't think it would have been a very wise thing to do to dispose of the tapes. . . .

Q. When you were defending the President, did you believe you had adequate access to him?

A. I think so, yes.

Q. Was your access to the tapes limited?

A. Well, I never requested to see a tape I didn't see. But I didn't spend my time at a tape recorder listening to hour after hour of tapes.

Q. Why didn't you review all the tapes?

A. Well, I was very busy doing other matters, to be very frank with you. I was responding to requests from the special prosecutor's office. Sometimes those requests resulted in motions which we opposed. I was re-

sponding to similar requests from the judge in the (White House plumbers') case that was tried. I was involved in litigation proceeding from Judge Sirica's court to the Supreme Court of the United States. I was also trying to get ready to represent the President in the impeachment inquiry. I was not unemployed. . . .

St. Clair declined to discuss how he came across the June, 1972, tapes that the White House disclosed after the Supreme Court ordered them turned over to the special prosecutor. He also declined to say what his reactions were when he first heard those tapes, and he declined to comment on reports that he threatened to resign unless Nixon turned the tapes over.

Q. Was Nixon's resignation the right thing to do?

A. Well, in my view, the President is the only one to decide whether or not he should resign, and he ap-

parently was satisfied it was the right thing to do . . .

Q. When did it become clear the House Judiciary Committee would recommend impeachment?

A. I thought there was serious risk of that at the outset of the impeachment inquiry.

Q. Why?

A. I considered the impeachment inquiry as much a political as a quasi-judicial matter, political in the sense that an elected official reflects what he believes his electorate would support in terms of who they would vote for in the next go-around.

Q. After the final tape disclosures, what were your chances in the House?

A. I doubt very much we could have prevailed in the House.

Q. Could you have prevailed in the Senate?

A. Well, you know, who knows? It became an academic matter . . . Was I pre-

pared to fight it in the Senate? The answer is yes.

Q. What kind of defense were you planning in the Senate?

A. It would have been appropriate to argue that whatever was done was not of the magnitude to justify impeaching a President. Secondly, in fact the FBI was not impaired in its investigation (of the Watergate break-in), that within a matter of two or three weeks they were instructed to carry on their investigation without interruption and that there was some reason to believe that maybe the FBI investigation was in fact impinging on CIA prerogatives. . .

Q. Did you say the special prosecutor's office leaked?

A. I found references to material from time to time that it would be hard to attribute to any other source.

Q. Do you agree with President Ford that accept-



Associated Press

James D. St. Clair: "It's not likely to happen again."

ance of a pardon is tantamount to admission of wrongdoing?

A. I never made any legal

research into the question, but, any way, it would be unseemly for me to comment.