

Nixon Has Pneumonia, In Hospital

Box 7/13/73

President Nixon checked into Bethesda Naval Hospital last night with a case of what his White House physician called viral pneumonia, requiring a week's rest.

White House physicians, at a hurriedly called news conference, said "no complications" were foreseen, and viral pneumonia was "all that is wrong" with the President's health.

The President called his doctor at 5:30 a.m. yesterday, complaining of a pain in the right side of his chest. After tests, including X-rays, the doctors recommended that the President go to Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Doctors said he had a 101 to 102-degree fever.

In response to a question from reporters, who were summoned to the White House this evening, Dr. Walter Tkach assured the press that the viral pneumonia was all that is wrong with the President.

"I foresee no complications," Dr. Tkach said. He said the President would have to spend about a week in the hospital undergoing treatment which he said would consist of rest and recuperation, supportive therapy and making the patient comfortable.

Dr. Tkach said the President had been given an electrocardiogram test, which was normal and he stressed in answer to a question that the only ailment the President had was the viral pneumonia.