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DOCTORS REMOVE SENATOR'S TUMOR

Specter Said to Be Doing Fine
After a 2-Inch Growth on
His Skull Is Cut Out

PHILADELPHIA, June 14 (AP) — Doctors removed a tumor from Senator Arlen Specter's skull this morning in a two-and-one-half-hour operation and said they believed tests would show the growth as benign.

Mr. Specter's son Shanin said the operation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania had gone well.

"The Senator is awake and talking and appears in good spirits and neurologically normal," Shanin Specter said. He added that his father had said, "Those are the words I was waiting to hear," when told that the operation was considered a success.

Tumor Discovered Friday

Mr. Specter is expected to remain hospitalized for about a week, although it was unclear when he would return to Washington. His son said he may be able to carry out some of his duties from Philadelphia.

Shanin Specter said the two-inch growth apparently was a benign meningioma, a slow-growing hard tumor. It was attached to the skull behind the forehead on the left side, he said.

The tumor was discovered Friday during tests at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, where the Senator had gone after suffering mild facial pain for several weeks, Shanin Specter said. Earlier, a spokesman for the Senator said Mr. Specter was admitted to the hospital on Sunday as an emergency case.

Doctors said a definitive ruling on whether the tumor was benign or cancerous would not be possible until test results were ready in several days.

Political Moderate

The seven-person operating team was led by Dr. Eugene S. Flamm, chairman of the hospital's neurosurgery division.

Mr. Specter is known as a political moderate who is willing to break ranks with fellow Republicans. He voted against the confirmation of Judge Robert Bork for Supreme Court and supports abortion rights.

A member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Specter raised the hackles of feminists in 1991 with his close questioning of Anita F. Hill during the confirmation hearings of Judge Clarence Thomas, then a nominee to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Specter, who was first elected to the Senate in 1980, won a third term last year, defeating his Democratic challenger, Lynn Yeakel, by 51 percent to 49 percent.

A Yale Law School graduate, Mr. Specter entered public service as an assistant district attorney. In 1964, he was appointed assistant counsel to the Warren Commission to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He was credited with developing the controversial theory that a single bullet had killed the President and wounded Gov. John B. Connally of Texas on Nov. 22, 1963.