

Stennis Better; May Go Home In Few Weeks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John C. Stennis has shown encouraging progress and may be going home from the hospital in several weeks, doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center say.

The 71-year-old Mississippi Democrat has been in the hospital since Jan. 30 after being shot twice in a holdup in front of his Washington home. His assailants are still at large.

A hospital statement Monday said Stennis' condition had been changed from very serious to serious. "The prognosis has been changed from guarded to fair," it added.

It said that, although doctors are concerned about the damage to the pancreas, small intestine and the danger of infection, they "consider each of these areas under control and each is responding well to treatment."

Stennis has been sitting in a chair several times daily and has been walking around his room "to a limited degree," the hospital statement said.

He also has been watching television newscasts.

President Nixon telephoned Stennis from California Monday to inquire about his condition. Stennis was quoted as telling the President he was feeling fine and was recovering faster than he thought he would.