

Nixon's Condition Improves Hospitalization Will Continue Until Friday

By Stuart Auerbach
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President Nixon yesterday reached the midway point in his recovery from viral pneumonia but his doctors said he will have to remain in Bethesda naval hospital at least until Friday.

"He continues to feel better," said Dr. Walter R. Tkach, the President's personal physician. "The President's general overall medical condition is that of good improvement . . . he is still a sick man, but the improvement is considered to be acceptable.

"He has, however, the expected malaise, fatigue and lack of energy that is seen with prolonged bedrest and convalescence from a viral infection."

The President did little work yesterday. Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler brought him the morning news and intelligence summaries and said the President looked particularly at the foreign policy and national security sections because "he felt that he should."

But Ziegler said the President, who spends most of the day in bed taking catnaps, is too fatigued to do much reading.

"He said at least over the last few days since he experienced this type of illness he doesn't feel well enough even to pick up a book and read," the press secretary reported.

During the afternoon, the President met for 35 minutes with his longtime executive assistant, Rose Mary Woods, to go over mail he has received from friends and well-wishers. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon has received get-well messages "from virtually every head of government."

Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff, also met with the President for 20 minutes yesterday.

Tkach said he expects the President to leave the hospital

Friday if the improvement in his condition continues. A week to 10 days of recuperation will follow.

Although Tkach said he would prefer that the President recuperate in the "warm, sunny climate" at the San Clemente, Calif., White House, "I suspect that he'll fight to stay here in Washington. He's concerned about the amount of work that has to be done."

Ziegler predicted the President will go to the White House after leaving the hospital and then will spend some time at his Camp David moun-

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tain retreat. The President plans to go to San Clemente in August.

"Although the prognosis now is excellent," Tkach said, "the chief concern is that the President will push himself too hard and too fast, and perhaps slow down his recovery and perhaps cause a relapse."

To prevent this, Tkach said the doctors have been resisting the President's desire to do more work and have more visitors. "So far he's desisted in our favor," said Tkach.

Along with his lassitude,

Tkach reported that the President doesn't feel like eating. He has his biggest meal at dinner—roast beef on Saturday night—and has juice, fruit and cereal for breakfast. He is given a glass of orange juice every hour during the day.

His treatment remained the same yesterday—oral antibiotics and pain-killing drugs, and inhalation therapy to relieve the congestion in his lungs. He is now sitting up in a chair beside his bed for about 20 minutes four times a day.

Tkach said the congestion in both left and right lungs is decreasing and the President

only feels chest pain when he breathes deeply.

For the first time since he entered the hospital Thursday night, the President had a good night's sleep—7½ hours Saturday night—without the aid of an injection of a strong pain-killing medicine. The doctors declined to divulge the names of the drugs given Mr. Nixon.

The President's visitors yesterday included his wife, Pat, daughters Julie Eisenhower and Tricia Cox and Julie's husband, David. Family members also visited him Friday and Saturday.



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White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler, left, and the President's doctors, Walter Tkach and William Lukash, after a visit with the President at the hospital.

President Midway in Recovery, Will Be Hospitalized Till Friday



Pat Nixon and daughter Tricia Cox leave naval hospital in Bethesda after visiting recuperating President. United Press International