

Nixon Has a Brief Health Checkup

Washington

President Nixon underwent a brief physical examination yesterday and his personal physician said he appeared to be in good health.

Dr. Walter Tkach, an Army brigadier general, said Mr. Nixon's heart is in good condition, his pulse normal and his chest clear.

But Tkach said he wants to talk to the President today about taking the comprehensive physical examination that Mr. Nixon postponed several days before Christmas.

"He seemed good to me today," the doctor told reporters, conceding that Mr. Nixon may appear weary "because he's not getting enough sleep."

He said the burden of the Watergate scandal may "take its toll in his appearance by reflecting fatigue."

Asked if Mr. Nixon is seeing a psychiatrist, Tkach

replied: "Hell no."

"You can't get a psychiatrist to see you without someone knowing about it," said Tkach. "You can't stop a leak."

Asked if Mr. Nixon suffered a broken toe while swimming at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., last summer, Tkach said he did not know.

"I was up there when he skinned it," said Tkach. "I cleaned it up and put peroxide on it. But he did not want X-rays."

The President had planned to go to Bethesda Naval Hospital on December 22 for a full-scale physical examination, but Tkach said Mr. Nixon decided he had "too much work to do" and postponed it.

Mr. Nixon had his last complete examination on December 17, 1972. He spent eight days in the Bethesda hospital last July recovering from viral pneumonia.

United Press