

# Nixon Too Sick to Travel

## Long Beach

Former President Nixon's illness is dangerous enough that he will not be able to travel for prolonged periods for at least a month, and possibly three months, ruling out his early testimony in the Watergate coverup trial, his doctor said yesterday.

At a specially called news conference at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, which Mr. Nixon entered a week ago, Dr. John C. Lungren said Mr. Nixon might be released from the hospital by the end of the week, but would require an extensive period of convalescence for his phlebitis and blood clot condition.

"We will avoid protracted periods of sitting, of riding, of standing, of riding in a car, airplane, bus, you have it," Lungren said in describing Mr. Nixon's limitations.

The doctor was asked how long such restrictions would continue.

"I can't tell you," Lungren said. "It's certainly going to be, in my estima-



AP Wirephoto

**DR. JOHN LUNGREN**  
**He ruled out trips**

tion at least a month, maybe longer. Maybe three months. In all honesty, I don't know."

Lungren did say that Mr. Nixon's condition is such that he would recommend that Mr. Nixon not even give a written deposition in the Watergate coverup trial,

scheduled to begin today in Washington, D.C., for at least two or three weeks.

Further tests will be conducted this week to determine the course of future treatment, he said. Lungren said there is no indication at the present time that there is any need for surgery, and that therapy by anti-coagulants will continue.

A medical bulletin issued earlier in the day said Mr. Nixon was showing "marked physical exhaustion" and that he was able to get out of bed only for portions of the day to sit in a reclining chair with his left leg elevated. A newsman asked Lungren what has contributed to such exhaustion.

"Twenty-seven years without a vacation," Lungren said,

"Five and one-half years in the roughest job in the world. An illness that he has had at least since June, and the longest hospital stay he has ever had.

Lungren said the "immediate acute danger" probably has passed.

The doctor was asked about Mr. Nixon's spirits.

"I think they're excellent. Maybe he's a little stir — I'm not going to use that term," the doctor said with a laugh. "He's a little stirred up."

Another newsman asked him whether Mr. Nixon's fall from the presidency had contributed to his illness, whether he had been hurt by it.

"I don't think that he would be human if he wasn't hurt and I think he is a very human man," Lungren said.

"But that wasn't the principal reason."

Lungren said Mr. Nixon had been watching football on television over the weekend and that he would be watching another game last night.

Another newsman said there had been questions raised whether Mr. Nixon's hospitalization was "necessary."

Looking grim, Lungren said such a report was in the same classification as the rumors that the illness was a hoax, and said he would not dignify it with a reply.

Lungren recently had described the blood clot in Mr. Nixon's lung was "the size of a dime."

The doctor said he wanted to verify that statement by saying that the lung area affected was about dime-size. But he added that if the clot itself was of that magnitude in a blood vessel, Mr. Nixon would be "much sicker than he is and we might have a calamity."

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