

# Nixon Is Facing a Large Medical Bill for Treatment

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**LONG BEACH, Calif., Oct. 30**—Former President Richard M. Nixon—his finances deteriorating, according to aides—faces a large personal medical bill for his phlebitis treatment.

Mr. Nixon has already accumulated bills of nearly \$3,500 for rooms in two stays at the Memorial Hospital Medical Center here. That is likely to be a small part of the over-all cost of sophisticated and extensive testing, medication and doctors' fees.

The Federal Government has been billed and is expected to pay for rooms occupied by the Secret Service detail adjacent to Mr. Nixon's. Mr. Nixon is the only patient on the seventh floor, which was recently added to the hospital and has not yet been opened to the public.

Hospital spokesmen say Mr. Nixon has been billed personal-

ly for two rooms for his first stay of 12 days, which ended Oct. 4. The original rate was \$90 a day per room, but a general rate increase by the hospital Oct. 1 raised that to \$94. Since his lapse into post-surgical shock yesterday, Mr. Nixon has been under intensive care, for which the hospital's standard rate is \$250 a day.

## No Medical Insurance

Mr. Nixon is said to have no personal medical insurance, and—contrary to widespread belief—former Presidents are not automatically entitled to Government-financed medical service.

A spokesman for the Civil Service Commission in Washington has declined to discuss Mr. Nixon's status, except to say that "he did not elect" to enroll in any of the insurance programs available to all Federal employees.

Ron L. Ziegler, former Pres-

idential press secretary and Mr. Nixon's closest aide since his retreat to his San Clemente estate, told newsmen today that Mr. Nixon "will have to pay and is paying from his personal funds."

Mr. Ziegler said it was his understanding that a former President entering a military hospital "like Walter Reed would be charged the military rate, about \$60 a day."

Among recent former Presidents treated for illnesses after leaving office, President Eisenhower was an exception, qualifying for unlimited free military medical care as a retired five-star general.

## Truman Had Medicare

President Truman was covered by Medicare, holding card No. 1 of the Federal program. President Johnson was covered by a Federal policy in which he had enrolled. President Kenne-

dy was treated in emergency rooms of the public hospital in which he died.

Mr. Nixon could have saved money by entering the Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital, which is minutes from San Clemente, but that military facility does not have the sophisticated testing equipment available at Long Beach Memorial.

The ultra-modern lung scanners and radiological devices here detected the clot that had traveled from Mr. Nixon's swollen left leg, through his heart and into his lung, during his first stay here. And facilities for intensive care played a vital role yesterday in saving Mr. Nixon's life after he went into shock.

But it is also this type of equipment that will add greatly to Mr. Nixon's hospital bill.

Mr. Nixon amassed a fortune of more than \$1-million while he was in office, but this will be reduced almost by half because of back Federal taxes he has agreed to pay. The former President is entitled to an annual pension of \$60,000 and close to \$100,000 a year to cover his office expenses.

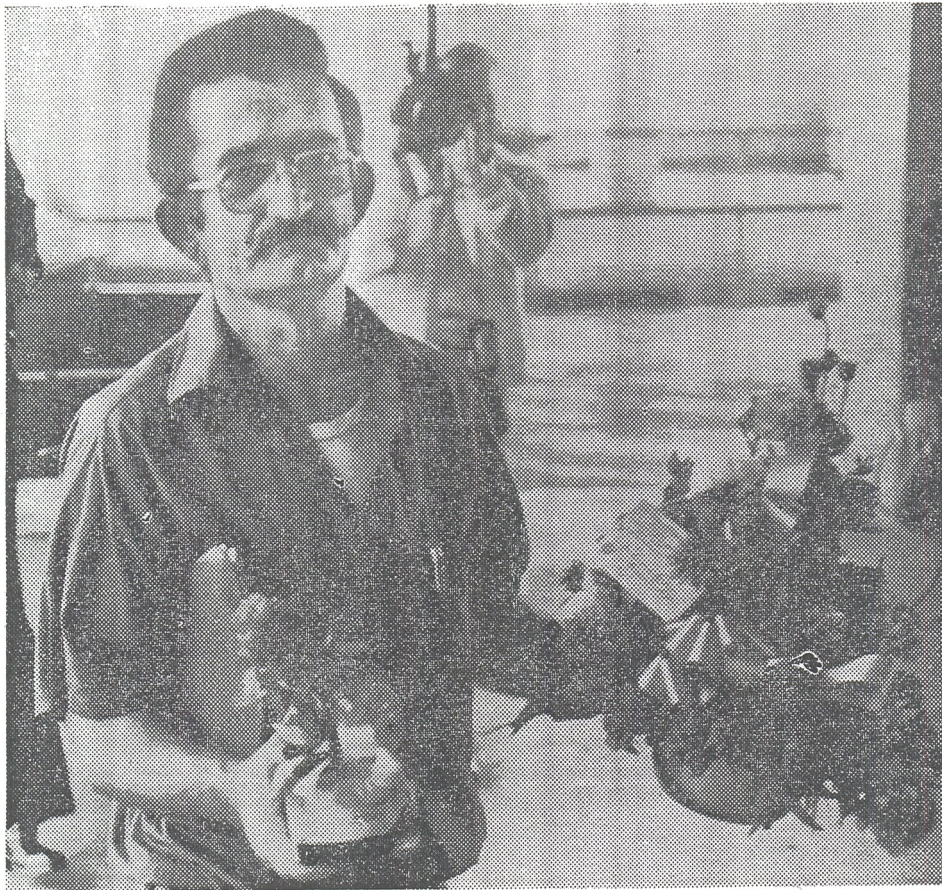
## Transition Funds Asked

In addition, President Ford requested that Congress appropriate \$850,000 in so-called transition funds for Mr. Nixon. But Congress has proposed to cut that to about one-quarter of the amount. Recently, Mr. Nixon was reported to be unable to meet a mortgage payment on his San Clemente estate.

Mr. Ziegler has told reporters here that the current extent of Federal aid to Mr. Nixon has been exaggerated. He denied reports that 22 to 64 persons on the Federal payroll were working for Mr. Nixon at San Clemente. "There are only about 10 people here, really, and most of them are secretaries, so we're not running a plush operation down there," he said.

Mr. Ziegler said there had been a limited amount of Federal money allocated so far, which he estimated at \$50,000.

As to Mr. Nixon's lack of a personal medical insurance policy, Mr. Ziegler said, "You know he was President for five-and-one-half years, and I guess people dropped the ball along the way. They sure did on health insurance."



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Wayne Lewis delivering some flowers sent to Richard M. Nixon at hospital yesterday

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A view, yesterday, of the Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif., where Richard M. Nixon had surgery