Ford Asserts Patient Shows Sign of Strain

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By JON NORDHEIMER NOV 2 1974 Special to The New York Times

later that Mr. Nixon was show-hugged all three simultaneously. ing physical strain.

that he has been very, very deat telling Mrs. Nixon. "I ill," Mr. Ford remarked after talked to Betty this morning." an eight-minute visit to the former President's room in the in-tensive care section of Memorial lapels. Tricia was wearing a Hospital Medical Center of white dress with white boots; Long Beach.

Mr. Nixon's doctors reported and black shirt. today that the former Presi-

later flew to Fresno, Calif., to for eight minutes. aid the campaign of Representative Robert B. Mathias.

"Obviously, he's a very sick man," Mr. Ford told newsmen as he left the hospital, "but I think he's coming along very, very well. He was very interested in the discussion I had with him concerning my forthcoming trip to Japan, South Korea, the Soviet Union."

He said he had also given Mr. Nixon a quick briefing on Secretary of State Kissinger's diplomatic trip abroad.

The President entered the cardiac care unit at 10:10 A.M., equipment the bed. and was greeted by the Nixon and fervent, though apparently not tearful greeting. The President hugged Nath Nicon had no difficulty talking but that "his voice was husky."

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. kissed her. Mr. Ford kissed I—President Ford visited for the Nixon' daughters, Julie mer President Richard M. Nixon Eisenhower and Tricia Cox and in the hospital today and said then spread his arms wide and "It's great to see you," Ron "It was very obvious to me Nessen later reported the Presi-

> Mrs. Nixon was wearing a Julie had on a red blouse, scarf

At 10:12, according to Mr. dent's condition was stable but Nessen, Mr. Ford entered room remained serious, with evidence 704, two doors down from the that there has been a halt in former President and talked the internal bleeding that had with Mrs. Nixon and the girls complicated his recovery-since for five minutes. At 10:17, he surgery Tuesday to reduce the went to the end of the corridor hazard of a phlebitis condition. to room 706 and began his visit The President interrupted a with the former President. He political swing through the West Coast to drop by the hospital at mid-morning. He later flew to France Coast

Mr. Nessen said later that the visit had been essentially a surprise to the former President, who was told about it three minutes before Mr. Ford walked in the door.

The former President was fully conscious and was wearing a white hospital gown. He was propped up in the bed, which had been elevated about 30 degrees. The President, who called his predecessor "Dick" during the conversation, sat in a chair at Mr. Nixon's left. Mr. Nessen said monitoring equipment was visible above

Mr. Nessen said that Mr.

dent hugged Mrs. Nixon, then Continued on Page 10, Column 5

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Mr. Ford asked Mr. Nixon, "Did you have a good night?" Mr. Nixon replied, "one of the nights are too good."

As he got up to leave Mr. Ford exhorted Mr. Nixon to "be well" then took the former President's right hand in his right hand. The President left the room at 10:25 and went back to Room 704 to talk with the Nixon girls for about two minutes before he left the seventh floor. None of the Nixon family accompanied him from the cardiac suite.

The President left the hospital at 10:33.

pital at 10:33.

Mr. Ziegler, the former White House press secretary, said the patient had not been informed of Mr. Ford's visit until a few minutes before the seclusion.

Asked to describe the Presidency Asked to describe the Presidency and flew to California and into seclusion. until a few minutes before the President entered the room, on the advice of Mr. Nixon's physicians, who wanted to minimize the "excitement" connected with the visit.

"I saw President Nixon briefly after the visit and he was, of course, very tired and appeared to be very weak after this morning's activity," Mr. Ziegler said.

Seclusion.

Asked to describe the President's reaction to the meeting, Mr. Ziegler demurred. "I don't want to characterize President Ford's observations or how he felt," he said.

"He has a press secretary who can do that. I would only offer a personal response. To see President Nixon lying there as he is, is trying for those

Ziegler said.

Much of his exhaustion was due, Mr. Ziegler said, to routine He added, "His hair was mussed, he was clearly drawn and he had lost weight." But Mr. Nessen did not think the President appeared haggard.

Mr. Ford asked Mr. Nixon Mr. Ziegler said, to routhle tests and activity that the former President underwent before the visit. When he entered the former President's room, Mr. Ziegler told newsmen, Mr. Nixon was telling a nurse: "You know with the bath this

who have affection for him and for those who hold respect for him. It's not easy to see him in this condition."

About 150 persons gathered at the main entrance to the hospital to watch Mr. Ford's arrival and departure. The crowd, composed mostly of patients and hospital visitors, was friendly and applauded the location of the hospital.

President when he arrived and when he left.

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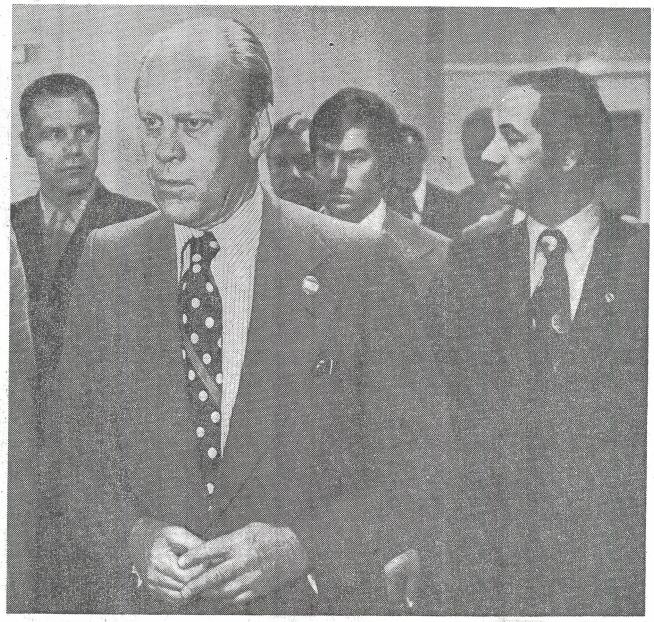
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President Visits Nixon for 8 Minutes



United Press International

President Ford leaving the intensive-care unit where he visited Richard M. Nixon yesterday at Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif. At right is Ron Nessen, White House press secretary.