

# Nixon Improving --Walks in Room

## Long Beach

Former President Nixon's condition improved enough yesterday for him to try walking in his hospital room, but doctors are concerned about a small amount of fluid in one lung.

The 61-year-old Mr. Nixon was being encouraged to cough and breathe deeply to dissipate the deposit of fluid which is a complication fairly common in patients who have to lie on their backs for a long period after operations.

The medical bulletin issued by Dr. John Lungren said Mr. Nixon "still continues to show gradual improvement" and that his vital signs are stable.

"We will attempt careful ambulation today in his room with help," Lungren said. "During this activity he will be closely monitored."

It was the first time that Mr. Nixon had tried walking since he went into a state of shock and almost died last Tuesday after surgery to block passage of blood clots.

The bulletin said doctors are "still concerned" about

the presence of the minor amount of fluid in the left lung.

Hospital spokesman Norm Nager disclosed that the condition had been present as long ago as last Saturday.

A medical statement Sunday had revealed that Mr. Nixon is being given treatment on an inhalation machine for ten minutes every four hours as another means of combatting the fluid congestion.

Nager said the condition is one that in some cases could lead to pneumonia but emphasized that Mr. Nixon is not considered threatened by pneumonia although "it is one of the considerations that must be taken into account."

The bulletin said hematologists are also working to determine whether there is any abnormality in Mr. Nixon's blood analysis to account for deficiencies in his coagulation mechanism.

The former chief executive, who was removed from the critical list, was said to remain under "sub-intensive care."

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