

# 3 Doctors Named

## Washington

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica yesterday named three physicians to examine former President Nixon and report by November 29 on whether he is physically able to testify at the Watergate coverup trial.

Sirica said the doctors, whom he described as "three of the outstanding men in the country," had been ordered to conduct whatever examinations are necessary, including Mr. Nixon's medical records and a physical examination of Mr. Nixon himself.

Chairman of the panel of

is Dr. Charles Anthony Hufnagle, a cardiovascular surgeon who is chief of surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington. Others are Dr. Richard Starr Ross, a cardiologist and director of the adult cardiac clinic at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, and Dr. John Spittell Jr., a cardiologist and internist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

In Long Beach, Dr. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, said "my colleagues and I will welcome the examination by the court-appointed physicians. We know they will examine the

patient and his records in an objective manner."

Sirica said the physicians will set up their own timetable for the Nixon case, but his announcement said a report — either interim or final — will be made by November 29.

What I'm going to do is leave the mechanics up to the panel," Sirica told reporters after meeting in his chambers with Mr. Nixon's attorney and the Watergate trial lawyers.

"They know that time is of the essence. We want a report as quickly as we can get one."

## to Examine Nixon

The doctors were ordered to determine if Mr. Nixon is able to travel to Washington to testify and if not, when he might be.

If they decide he cannot travel from California, they have been asked to report whether he might be able to testify at a site near his home or whether he could give a deposition under conditions that would "avoid serious risk of injury to his health."

On the Nixon examination, Sirica directed the doctors to "secure the approval of Mr. Nixon or his attorney prior to any examination of confidential records and

prior to any physical examination of Mr. Nixon.

"Should Mr. Nixon refuse access to appropriate and necessary medical records or refuse to submit to an appropriate physical examination the said panel shall report immediately to the court," Sirica's order said.

Should the former President not cooperate, Sirica would have the option of citing him on a charge of contempt of court.

Mr. Nixon was subpoenaed September 4, by cover-up defendant John D. Ehrlichman, who contends Mr. Nixon is an "indispensable witness" in his behalf.

Mr. Nixon's lawyers sought to quash the motion on the ground of ill health, but Sirica stalled a decision until this week, when he was advised that the prosecution would rest its case within two weeks and the defense start presenting its witnesses.

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