

A Wan Nixon Returns to His Home After a 3-Week Stay in the Hospital

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LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 14 —Former President Richard M. Nixon, looking wan, went home to San Clemente today from the hospital where he was readmitted unexpectedly three weeks ago and where he suffered from internal bleeding and shock after surgery was performed 16 days ago.

Mr. Nixon, wearing a dark blue robe and light blue pajamas, left Memorial Hospital IM Medical Center at 10 A.M. Pacific coast time, thru a loading dock area in the hospital's basement. His hands were folded and his phlebitis-damaged left leg was outstretched on a wheel chair as aides moved the former President to a limousine.

Mr. Nixon, who lost about 10 pounds in the 32 days he spent with assistance at the side of his in the hospital on two occasions since September, stood up the limousine.

He shook hands with several of the doctors and nurses who gave him intensive care after he went into shock six hours after surgery Oct. 29.

In that operation, a permanent clamp was placed across the left iliac vein in his pelvis to prevent potentially fatal blood clots from floating from his leg through his heart and lodging in his lungs.

Then Mr. Nixon slowly climbed into the limousine. Mrs. Nixon sat down beside her husband. Mr. Nixon waved to reporters as the limousine began the 50-mile freeway drive south to San Clemente.

'Welcome Home'

An hour later, he arrived at La Casa Pacifica, his estate in San Clemente, where staff members had printed in red crayon a sign that read "Welcome home Mr. President, we've missed you." Boxes of get-well cards were stacked in offices at the estate.

A hospital bed has been moved into Mr. Nixon's bedroom at his estate.

There, Mr. Nixon's activity will be limited to "controlled ambulation" for an indefinite period, Dr. John C. Lungren, his physician, said in a bulletin that he read at a news conference at the hospital.

"It will be a period of watchful observation" of Mr. Nixon's intermittently high blood pressure, lung complications and blood-thinning therapy, Dr. Lungren said.

When asked at the conference when Mr. Nixon might testify at the Watergate cover-up trial in Washington, Dr. Lungren said he could not give a specific time because "there are many factors involved which we have to monitor."

Reaction Not Known

It is not known what Mr. Nixon's reaction has been to Federal Judge John J. Sirica's decision ordering three doctors to examine Mr. Nixon and his medical records in California. Both the prosecution and defense have subpoenaed Mr. Nixon to testify at the trial.

"I don't think he has seen the orders," Dr. Lungren said at the conference.

Yesterday, Dr. Lungren said that he and his colleagues would welcome the three doctors appointed by Judge Sirica to examine Mr. Nixon.

At the conference today, Dr. Eldon Hickman, who headed the team of three surgeons who operated on Mr. Nixon, said in answer to a question about the need for the court-appointed examination:

"I think it's unnecessary."

Dr. Hickman said the three court-approved doctors had not been in touch with him or Dr. Lungren.

"I assume they would properly contact us but I have no direct information whatsoever," Dr. Hickman said.

Dr. Lungren said that "we feel very strongly that former President Nixon has been treated by the highest caliber of Western medicine."

Asked why it was necessary for Judge Sirica to bring in Eastern doctors, Dr. Lungren replied:

"I have no idea, you'd have to ask the judge."

No Examination Plans

When Dr. Hican Was asked about laHQ for Nr. Nixon's court-appointed eiamindtion, he said:

"We have not heard how they might propose to go about it, and I think if they invite our opinion I think we would have something to say about it. But I don't think we can predict how this might happen."

Dr. Hickman said that "under controlled circumstances" Mr. Nixon "could be examined today, tomorrow, next week." He added that "I don't think that the time as such is as important as the approach, the circumstances, the attitudes, the other factors."

When Dr. Hickman asked about precautions he would take was! in making such an examination, he said:

"Well, I'd certainly want to feel first of all that I had the willingness and confidence, perhaps that's not the word, but the willingness or agreement of the patient and that I had talked to his physician in advance. I would review the record. I would be aware of the pros and cons and the problem areas and then only under those circumstances carry out a

history and examination. Hopefully it would be reasonably smooth and correlated if those kind of guidelines would be followed. At least that's how I would proceed."

Asked where the examination could be done, Dr. Hickman said:

"The patient is in San Clemente now and I think it would be a matter of practicality whether they would do it in his home or transfer him to Pendleton [Naval Hospital]. I think that would have to be worked out, I think it would be an unnecessary stress to bring him back to Long Beach for example, simply for this examination."

What if the court-appointed doctors disagreed with Mr. Nixon's physicians' recommendations? Dr. Hickman said:

"I don't think I could predict any reaction until I knew exactly what they were recommending and in what way they differed from our decision."

Among Dr. Lungren's recom-

mendations was an order that Mr. Nixon restrict his activities to short walks.

"At this time it is impossible for us, the attending physicians, to render a decision as to how long this restricted period of activity will be necessary," Dr. Lungren said. "The progress of the patient's recovery, the level of maintained anticoagulation therapy, the absence of new complications will all play a role in this decision."

Mr. Nixon is Dr. Lungren's most prominent patient. But the Long Beach specialist in internal medicine has faced a waiting room full of patients when he walked the 200 yards from the hospital to his office during Mr. Nixon's two hospitalizations.

Dr. Lungren, looking drawn and fatigued, said that he and his wife will begin a vacation at an undisclosed location next week. During his absence, Dr. Hickman will be Mr. Nixon's attending physician, Dr. Lungren said.



NIXON GOES HOME FROM HOSPITAL: Richard M. Nixon being helped from wheelchair to car yesterday for trip from Long Beach, Calif., to San Clemente. Page 12.