

NIXON'S CHECK-UP EXPECTED TODAY

3 Doctors Named by Sirica
Restricted on Information

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Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 24—The court-ordered medical examination of former President Richard M. Nixon is likely to take place tomorrow at Mr. Nixon's San Clemente estate, the chairman of the three-physician examining panel said today.

Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel, the chairman, said he was working under restrictions imposed by Mr. Nixon regarding the release of information about his physical condition, and therefore could not comment on the case before reporting Nov. 29 in United States District Court to Judge John J. Sirica.

Judge Sirica ordered the examination by an independent panel of physicians to determine whether the former President can testify at the current Watergate cover-up trial in Washington. He has been subpoenaed by the defense and the prosecution in the trial of five of his former top aides.

Mr. Nixon's personal physicians and lawyers have contended that he is too weakened by surgery last month to testify. In the surgery, a clamp was placed in a vein in Mr. Nixon's pelvis to prevent blood clots from a chronic phlebitis condition from traveling to the heart and lungs. Although the operation went smooth, Mr. Nixon's life was endangered by post-surgical shock that had slowed his recovery and complicated the therapy.

"I'm in a very difficult position," Dr. Hufnagel, a cardiovascular specialist associated with Georgetown University Hospital, remarked at an airport news conference after arriving here from Washington.

"I don't welcome this assignment," he added. "I am under serious constrictions from Mr. Nixon's point of view as to making public any information regarding his medical records."

The other members of the medical panel are Dr. Richard Starr Ross, a cardiovascular disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital and Medical School in Baltimore, and Dr. John A. Spittel Jr., an internist with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

The three physicians will meet in the morning at Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Long Beach with the man who performed the surgery on the former President, Dr. Eldon Hickman. They will also scrutinize Mr. Nixon's medical records and then go to San Clemente in the afternoon unless it is inadvisable for Mr. Nixon to have the personal examination tomorrow, Dr. Hufnagel said.

His team will not insist on the examination, Dr. Hufnagel said, if medical data convinced them that it would be dangerous to Mr. Nixon.