

NIXON IS EXAMINED BY COURT DOCTORS

NOV 26 1974

Sirica Named 3 to Ascertain
if Ex-President Can Testify
—Findings Undisclosed

NYTimes

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Nov. 25 (UPI) — Former President Richard M. Nixon was examined by court-appointed doctors at his estate here today to get an opinion on whether his health would be endangered by testifying at the Watergate cover-up trial.

Three doctors named by United States District Judge John J. Sirica drove here from Long Beach, Calif., in a United States marshal's car after spending the morning going over Mr. Nixon's written records at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

The head of the panel, Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel, refused to answer any questions from newsmen about the doctors' preliminary findings. They are under orders to report back to Judge Sirica by Friday, 29.

Possible Transfer of Trial

Judge Sirica had indicated that, depending upon their findings, he might transfer the Watergate trial to San Clemente temporarily to hear Mr. Nixon's testimony.

In addition to Dr. Hufnagel, a cardiovascular specialist associated with Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, the panel members are Dr. John A. Spittel Jr., an internist with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and Dr. Richard Starr Ross, a cardiovascular disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital and Medical School in Baltimore.

The visiting doctors were accompanied to San Clemente by Dr. Eldon B. Hickman, the surgeon who performed the operation on Mr. Nixon on Oct. 29 to prevent the movement of blood clots, caused by a phlebitis condition, from his left leg to his heart and lungs.

Dr. Hickman and Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, both have reported previously that Mr. Nixon came close to death in a relapse following the surgery and should not be submitted to stress for up to three months.

Dr. Hufnagel spent more than three hours going over Mr. Nixon's records at the hospital.

No Details on Exam

Dr. Hufnagel refused to give any indication of the type of examination the doctors had given Mr. Nixon at his home: Whether they simply talked with him, or conducted medical tests on him.

Dr. Lungren is on vacation and did not take part in the conferences or tests.

When Mr. Nixon was released from the hospital earlier this month after a 23-day stay, Dr. Lungren said that the 61-year-old former President was endangered by even small amounts of stress and that a medical examination in itself might be stressful.

Dr. Hufnagel said after arrival in Long Beach yesterday that the doctors would not call on Mr. Nixon if his medical records showed the stress of an examination would endanger him.