

Nixon Will Enter Hospital Monday

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon will check into a hospital in this seaside city Monday for treatment of phlebitis that has painfully swollen his left leg, a hospital spokesman said.

Nixon will stay in a private room on the sixth floor of Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, the spokesman said Friday.

Hospital officials said they had no idea how long Nixon will be hospitalized.

Though the phlebitis has created two blood clots in his leg, which could be fatal if either broke free and lodged in his heart or lungs, the former president reportedly had fought against hospitalization.

Dr. John C. Lungren, Nixon's longtime physician, will make an announcement after Nixon's arrival — the time has not been revealed — and will make daily reports on his condition, the spokesman said.

Lungren had no immediate comment to newsmen.

It was not immediately known if Nixon's wife, Pat, or any family members would stay with him. A spokesman at Nixon's villa in San Clemente would say only that the former chief executive "planned to enter a hospital early next week for treatment of his phlebitis."

In resisting his doctors' efforts to hospitalize him, Nixon reportedly said, "If I go into the hospital, I'll never come out alive."

One of his two doctors, Air Force Maj. Gen. William Tkach, was quoted in a magazine last week as saying the phlebitis condition had worsened and "it's going to take a miracle for him to recover."

Tkach and Lungren, former chief of staff at Memorial Hospital, want Nixon in the hospital so treatment can be started with anticoagulant drugs to dissolve the clots. Such treatment must begin intravenously and then can be taken orally.

It was expected that Tkach, formerly Nixon's White House

doctor and now stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, would see Nixon in the hospital. Lungren, an internist with a specialty in cardiology, has an office near the hospital.

Nixon could go there by helicopter from his San Clemente villa, land on the rooftop helipad and go down a stairway to his room on the west wing of the seven — floor, 680 — bed hospital built in the 1960s. The top floor is not yet open.

Secret Service agents were arranging security for the hospital stay.

Nixon stayed in Memorial once before, having a physical examination there in 1968 when he was President-elect.

Long Beach is about 25 miles south of Los Angeles and about 50 miles north of San Clemente. The hospital is located in an industrial area north of downtown Long Beach. It is surrounded by rocking oil rigs, oil storage tanks and warehouses.

There are few residences in the area.

Nixon has been suffering from phlebitis, an inflammation of a vein, for several months.

Earlier this week Nixon's lawyers moved to quash a subpoena in a Charlotte, N.C., civil case which ordered Nixon to make a deposition next Tuesday in Santa Ana, Calif., near San Clemente. The attorneys contended Nixon was too ill to testify.

A hearing on the motion was scheduled Friday, then postponed to Monday.

On Friday, special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski suggested to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica that he conduct his own inquiry into whether Nixon is healthy enough to testify at the Watergate cover-up trial.

Jaworski and defendant John D. Ehrlichman have subpoenaed Nixon to appear at the trial, scheduled to begin Oct. 1.

If Nixon is reported too ill to appear at the trial, "the court could consider taking the customary step of appointing a team of medical experts to examine Mr. Nixon and report their findings to the court," Jaworski said.

There was no immediate response from Sirica.

If Nixon is too ill to testify, a deposition might be taken outside the courtroom, Jaworski said.

Julie Nixon Eisenhower, the former President's youngest daughter, arrived in San Clemente on Thursday. Sources said she had flown there to convince her ailing father to enter a hospital.

She had not seen him since he resigned as President on Aug. 9 and went into seclusion at his oceanside estate, although she has talked to him by telephone.

Nixon's attorneys filed a motion Monday in Los Angeles, asking that the Charlotte subpoena be quashed because of Nixon's ill health and because, they argued, his actions at the time and documents and tape recordings requested were covered by presidential privilege.

The Charlotte suit was filed by 21 persons contending White House aides and local officials illegally prevented them from attending a 1971 rally in honor of the Rev. Billy Graham. Nixon spoke at the event.