

Why Nixon

Kept Ailment A Secret

Miami

The White House said yesterday that President Nixon ordered that the seriousness of his physical ailment be kept secret during his recent trip abroad because he feared public disclosure would interfere with his top-level negotiations.

The President did not want his health problems discussed because he felt it would get in the way of the goals he hoped to achieve on what he considered to be two important trips, said Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald Warren said in reply to a reporter's question. 4 Jul

On Thursday, the President's personal physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, disclosed that there was an outside

Back Page Col. 4

From Page 1

chance that a blood clot in the President's leg could have killed Mr. Nixon during his recent trip to the Middle East. The clot, caused by an ailment called thrombo phlebitis, could have broken off and traveled to Mr. Nixon's heart or lungs and possibly caused his death, Tkach said.

The physician said that he had warned the President of the gravity of his condition but that the President had decided to go on with his trips anyway, thus taking what Tkach called a "calculated risk."

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler put out a notice yesterday saying that the President "feels fine" and adding that "the phlebitis has resolved itself and there is no danger."

Ziegler reported that the President had called Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Rome yesterday and that Kissinger had reported that he was receiving "a very good reaction" from European leaders to the recent summit meeting in the Soviet Union.

9 Jul
Kissinger is expected to return to the United States Tuesday and the President plans to hold a bipartisan meeting of congressional leaders to brief them on the results of his European diplomacy, Ziegler reported.

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