

NIXON UNDERGOES PANCREAS TESTS

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If Results Are Satisfactory,
He May Be Discharged
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LONG BEACH, Calif., Oct. 3 —Former President Richard M. Nixon underwent "special studies" today to determine the status of his pancreas, a digestive gland deep in the abdomen, Mr. Nixon's doctors said here today.

Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, said in a medical bulletin issued by the Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach that results of the studies were not yet available. Dr. Lungren said the tests were done in Memorial Hospital's Department of Diagnostic Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine "to determine if his pancreas is of normal size and appearance."

These tests are in keeping with Dr. Lungren's previous statements that he would do a series of "exhaustive" tests to diagnose the underlying cause of Mr. Nixon's repeated episodes of phlebitis. Cancer of the pancreas gland is one of many such causes.

No Cancer Found

In yesterday's bulletin, Dr. Lungren said that he had found no evidence of a hidden cancer in Mr. Nixon's body from the first in the series of diagnostic tests.

Dr. Lungren said today that if the tests continued to indicate that there were no complications, Mr. Nixon would be discharged from the hospital tomorrow.

Mr. Nixon is understood to be undergoing a series of barium X-rays of the stomach and intestine. These X-rays, give information about the status of the stomach and bowel. They also give indirect information about the pancreas gland. Accordingly, the special studies are understood to have been done to gain more specific information about the pancreas than could be gained from the barium X-ray studies.

A medical source connected with the Nixon case said that the special tests were done as a routine part of the exhaustive series and not specifically because an abnormality had been found in the barium X-ray tests.

Test Called a Scan

The pancreas test, called a scan, involved the administration of radio-isotopes, or radioactive chemicals, to Mr. Nixon. Then a scintillation camera took an electronic photograph of the radio-isotope's distribution in the pancreas gland. This scan provided Dr. Lungren and other doctors treating Mr. Nixon with a look at the pancreas not otherwise possible on the barium X-rays.

The radio-isotopes used in the pancreas scan, like those to view other organs, must be fresh. Accordingly, a dose of the radio-isotopes was shipped to Memorial Hospital in the early morning hours. Mr. Nixon was reportedly awakened early and brought to the nuclear medicine department in the hospital's basement.

A photographer who learned of the schedule stood by the nuclear medicine department.

Kent O. Henderson, a staff photographer for The Long Beach Independent Press-Telegraph, said in an interview that he waited outside the nuclear medicine department since 5 A.M.

Secret Service agents, who were aware of his presence, did not warn him off, Mr. Henderson said. During his nearly two-hour vigil, a breakfast was sent down to the basement room where Mr. Nixon was undergoing the tests.

Then, when the doors opened at 6:45 A.M. and Mr. Nixon emerged surrounded by security agents, Mr. Henderson stood poised to take Mr. Nixon's picture. The photographer said Mr. Nixon cursed him, and so startled him that he failed to take a picture.

Then, Mr. Henderson said, Mr. Nixon pulled the doors shut. The former President returned to his sixth floor room by another exit and route.

Dr. Lungren's medical bulletin also said that "with the exception of the scans that have demonstrated the embolus [blood clot] in the lung, all test results to date have been negative." The lung scan tests were done just after Mr. Nixon's admission to the hospital and again earlier this week.

Dr. Lungren further stated, "We expect to have enough information from a battery of diagnostic studies on Friday to render a final summary report on the diagnosis, a finalized future treatment plan, and course of convalescence. If the results from the test continue to be negative, he will be discharged from the hospital Friday."