

Nixon Sent to the Hospital
-- He has Viral Pneumonia

President to Stay At Bethesda for About a Week

Washington

President Nixon entered Bethesda Naval Medical Center last night for treatment of what White House doctors diagnosed as viral pneumonia, an infection of the air sacs of the lungs.

The President was driven to the hospital in nearby Maryland. He looked shaky as he walked up the steps into the building. He was taken by elevator to the presidential suite.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, who accompanied him in the motorcade, said the President had insisted on going through his schedule for the day, includ-

ing meeting with his staff despite feeling ill and running a high fever.

Among other activities yesterday, Mr. Nixon held a one hour conference with West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel and spoke by telephone with Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate committee.

He also held a last-minute conference with his national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, before leaving for the hospital.

ILLNESS

Viral pneumonia is a mild and almost never fatal infection of the lungs caused by one of the many adenoviruses involved in colds and other respiratory ailments.

Patients often hardly seem ill at all, and the most severe symptoms are cough, headache, chills and low grade fever. Treatment is usually not much more than a rest in bed. The mortality rate is less than 1 per cent.

Ziegler said the President had called in his White House physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, at 5:30 a.m. yesterday complaining of discomfort in his right chest. Preliminary examinations were made and the President went to work.

But, in the evening Ziegler said, his doctors prevailed

on Mr. Nixon to go to the nearby Naval dispensary for an examination. Afterward it was decided he should be hospitalized for a period of about a week, Ziegler said.

Mr. Nixon also was accompanied to the hospital by his chief of staff, Alexander M. Haig Jr., and a number of Secret Service agents.

Ziegler said the 60-year old President, who has bragged about his good health, had not been hospitalized since 1960, when he injured his knee by hitting it on a car door during his first presidential campaign.

The President, wearing a

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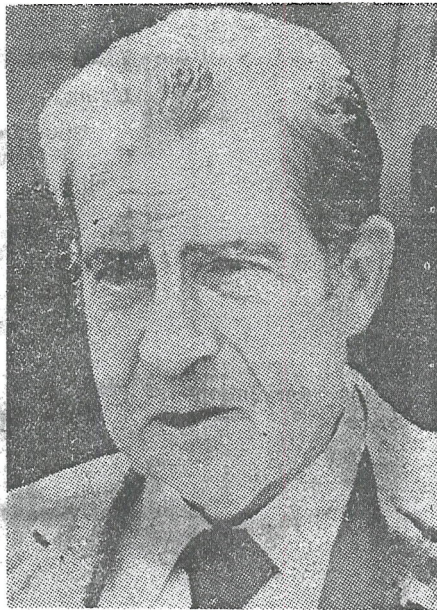
blue suit, was met at the hospital entrance by Captain D.L. Brown Jr., commanding officer of the Naval hospital.

Mr. Nixon seemed surprised to see him and told the white-uniformed Naval officer he did not want to inconvenience him.

Mr. Nixon arrived at the hospital at 9:12 p.m. after about a 25-minute drive from the White House.

FAMILY

Later, Press Secretary Helen Smith said that both Mrs. Nixon and Julie Nixon Eisenhower were at the White House and were waiting to hear the results of the tests on the President.



AP Wirephoto

THE PRESIDENT EARLIER YESTERDAY
He carried out his schedule

They did not go to the hospital immediately.

The President's elder daughter, Tricia, and her husband, Edward Cox, attended a Yankee baseball game in New York last night. She told reporters that she and her husband were aware of her father's illness but did not feel it serious enough to cancel their evening plans.

Mr. Nixon is occupying a third-floor suite, which had been used by the late President Lyndon B. Johnson during his illnesses in office.

REPORT

Dr. Tkach said the President had "no complications." He said he prescribed rest and medication.

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon had been running a fever of between 101 and 102 degrees, but was in "excellent spirits even though somewhat weak."

Asked by a reporter whether the President's illness could be attributed to overwork, Tkach said:

"That would be a guess." He said anyone could get viral pneumonia and that there was nothing else wrong with the President.

Neither Ziegler nor Tkach mentioned the Watergate case, which has caused Mr. Nixon extreme stress for several weeks, as a possible cause for the illness.

ASSURANCE

In response to a question from reporters, who were

summoned to the White House last night, Dr. Tkach assured the press that the viral pneumonia was all that is wrong with the President.

Mr. Nixon was given an electrocardiogram and it was "entirely normal," the doctor said.

Although he had been feeling discomfort since early morning, the decision to send the President to the hospital was not made until early last night, Ziegler said, after Dr. Tkach insisted that the President have X-rays of his chest.

As a result of this examination, Ziegler said, Dr. Tkach advised the President he should enter the hospital for medical treatment.

OUTLOOK

The doctor said the 60-year old President has been in good health and he estimated he would not need to be in the hospital longer than about a week "and recovery should be rapid."

"I see no complications in this case," Tkach said, adding that rest and medical care and perhaps something to help put the President to sleep, if he is restless would be required. Bed rest was the prime medication, the doctor said.

WORK

Ziegler said the President would carry on his normal workload while recuperating.

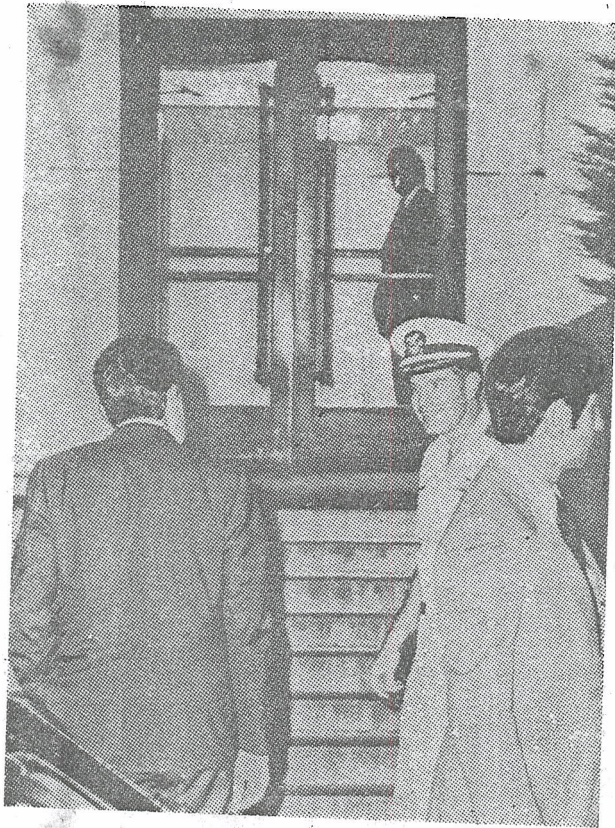
It is the first illness Mr. Nixon has experienced since assuming office. He spoke recently with pride that he had never missed a day of work as President because of illness.

President Nixon, 60, has enjoyed excellent health in comparison with his three predecessors.

President Eisenhower, under whom Mr. Nixon served as vice president, and President Johnson both had suffered from heart conditions. President Kennedy while in office suffered from an extremely painful back ailment.

Mr. Nixon has always passed his medical examinations with flying colors.

A.P. & U.P.



AP Wirephoto

THE PRESIDENT ON HIS WAY INTO HOSPITAL
He was surprised by Navy's welcome