

Nixon Still Has Pain In Chest

Washington

President Nixon's viral pneumonia caused him continuing chest pain yesterday, but his doctors said he was resting easier and they found no signs that the disease was spreading.

Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon intends to carry on "the essential work of his office" while in the hospital.

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon was eager to keep working, while doctors sought to cut down his schedule to less than a quarter of normal presidential activity.

The President, who was admitted Thursday, is expected to remain at Bethesda Naval Medical Center from seven to ten days, doctors said. Visitors were being kept to an absolute minimum.

FEVER

Physicians said Mr. Nixon was running a temperature of from 101 to 102 degrees and was attended by four doctors. He received an analgesic injection so he could get some sleep after a restless first night at the hospital, they said.

At an afternoon briefing, the White House said Mr.

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Nixon was "resting with more ease" and further X-rays showed "no progression of pneumonia."

The medical report said, however, that Mr. Nixon continued to "experience discomfort from chest congestion."

To relieve that condition, medical personnel were administering inhalation chest therapy four times a day, which included breathing an oxygenated salt solution.

The aim, the medical report said, was to allow for drainage of mucus and infected secretions from the lung area.

White House physician Dr. Walter Tkach said earlier that all of the doctors on the case agree that aside from the viral pneumonia, the President had no other illness or complication.

However, a viral illness "is somewhat devastating," Tkach said, and can be debilitating, weakening the patient. Therefore Tkach estimated "another week to ten days of hospitalization."

A consulting physician, Dr. Sol Katz, a professor of medicine at Georgetown University, described Mr. Nixon as "moderately ill with pneumonia." Katz said the illness is "significantly severe enough that he ought to be in the hospital."

The President had a chest pain on the right side, intensified when he breathed, Katz said. But it was "not the kind of chest pain that one associates with coronary artery disease or heart disease. It was pleural-type pain," Katz added.

Mr. Nixon was receiving antibiotics and inhalation therapy four times a day to lessen the lung discomfort.

Katz said the recommended therapy for this kind of pneumonia is "a period of inactivity with medication for approximately seven to ten days."

He said the President "didn't like what I told him: mainly that he might not feel quite up to par, even after he left the hospital because there is considerable

malaise and uneasiness and a feeling of lack of energy that may continue for some period after leaving the hospital."

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon had met with his chief of staff, General Alexander M. Haig Jr., yesterday morning and that the President would be reviewing and signing legislation and continuing to make policy decisions.

Mr. Nixon's illness will not delay the announcement of Phase Four of the economic stabilization program, Ziegler said. That date has not been set yet.

Ziegler also said that while the President is in the hospital, there will be no meeting between Mr. Nixon and Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate committee.

Early in the afternoon, Mrs. Nixon and daughter Julie Eisenhower came to visit the President for the first time since he was hospitalized Thursday night.

The illness of the President would not cause him to delegate any powers of the presidency, Ziegler said. He pointed out that Mr. Nixon reiterated yesterday morning that he would "proceed with the essential work of the office of the presidency."

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has not been in communication with Mr. Nixon since he entered the hospital, Ziegler said.

Because of Mr. Nixon's illness, the State Department contacted the government of Pakistan Thursday evening. It was agreed to postpone until September the visit of Pakistan President Zulfakir Ali Bhutto, which had been scheduled for Tuesday.

Associated Press



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PAT NIXON, DR. WALTER TKACH, JULIE AND DAVID EISENHOWER
White House physician accompanied the President's family from the hospital