

Doctors Say Nixon Illness Will Cut His Work by 75%

NYTimes

By R. W. APPLE Jr. JUL 14 1973
Special to The New York Times

BETHESDA, Md., July 13 — President Nixon, still suffering chest pains as a result of viral pneumonia, will be able to carry no more than a quarter of his normal work load for the next few days, doctors attending him reported today.

Mr. Nixon, who entered the Naval Hospital at the National Naval Medical Center here last night, managed to sleep for only about four hours. This morning, his personal physician, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, said that Mr. Nixon was "still uncomfortable."

In a medical bulletin issued at 3:30 P.M., however, Dr. Tkach said that the President was "resting with more ease" despite continuing discomfort from the infection that covered one-third to one-half of his right lung. Dr. Tkach added that new X-rays showed no spreading of the disease.

The White House said that Mr. Nixon would probably re-

main in the hospital for "as much as a week." He is receiving oral antibiotics and analgesics, as well as inhalation therapy four times a day to clear up the congestion in his chest.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presidential press secretary, said that Mr. Nixon's meeting with Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate committee investigating the Watergate case, would not take place while the President was hospitalized.

In addition, the visit of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the President of Pakistan, which was scheduled to begin Tuesday, has been postponed by mutual agreement until sometime in September. It is not yet known whether the Shah of Iran, who is due here July 24, will have to revise his plans as well.

Mr. Ziegler said that the

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

President had told him that there would be no change in the timetable for the announcement of his Phase 4 economic policy, which is tentatively scheduled for next week.

The President, who had always prided himself on never having missed a day's work while in office, was described by Dr. Sol Katz, director of the pulmonary division of the Georgetown University Medical School, as "moderately ill." But the doctor said that Mr. Nixon's condition was "sufficiently severe" to require hospitalization.

Dr. Katz, Dr. Robert C. Elliott, chief of the pulmonary disease division at the naval hospital, and Dr. William Lukash, the assistant Presidential physician, were all at the hospital today assisting Dr. Tkach, who is an Air Force major general.

Nixon Termed Impatient

Dr. Katz explained that the President's pain was of a "pleural type"—that is, related to the lining of the lung. He commented that this was "not the kind of chest pain that one associates with coronary artery or heart disease."

Both Dr. Katz and Dr. Tkach pictured Mr. Nixon as impatient and eager to continue with his work.

"He was champing at the bit," said Dr. Katz. "He wanted to do more. We insisted that he not do more. The recommended therapy for this kind of pneumonia... is a period of inactivity with medication for approximately seven to 10 days."

Dr. Tkach, discussing his struggle to persuade Mr. Nixon yesterday that he was really ill, told reporters:

"It was a battle to convince him he had pneumonia, because he wanted to continue as though he were not ill, and it was obvious he was ill even by general outward physical appearance."

The White House physician said that he intended to do his best to limit the President's work schedule to less than one-quarter of his regular load, at least for the next few days.

Mr. Ziegler said that the President intended to carry on "the essential work."

Mr. Nixon talked with Mr. Ziegler and with his chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., this morning. Both have set up temporary offices in the hospital.

Dr. Katz was questioned closely about whether fatigue could have caused the pneumonia attack. Mr. Nixon's younger daughter, Mrs. David Eisenhower, said recently that as a result of the Watergate scandal, her father was trying to handle "everything."

"He has been working hard, he indicates to me," Dr. Katz said. "His schedule is a rather tight one, but he indicated, however, that it is no more difficult than it always is, and that although he is tired, this is a rather common thing."

Mrs. Nixon Visits

Mrs. Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhower visited the President for 30 minutes this afternoon and talked with the doctors for 15 minutes. None of them made any comment upon entering or leaving the hospital, and Mrs. Nixon appears tight-lipped and somewhat grim.

Late this afternoon, Mr. Nixon sent to various wards baskets of fruit and candy and seven large bouquets of red, white and yellow flowers bearing cards that said, "Compliments of the President of the United States."

Mr. Nixon was resting in the Presidential suite on the third floor of the hospital. The suite has a sitting room, a kitchen, a conference room, a small treatment area, a kitchen and several bedrooms—ALL decorated with blue draperies and gold rugs.

The President, wearing white pajamas with blue piping, was using a standard hospital bed, aides said.

Marine guards were posted outside the door leading to the suite, on the roof above it, in all of the corridors leading to it and at each entrance to the hospital. A contingent of Secret Service agents was also here.

The President, who continued to run a temperature of

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1973



Associated Press

Prof. Sol Katz, left, of the Georgetown University Medical School and Dr. Walter R. Tkach, President Nixon's personal doctor, at a news conference yesterday in Bethesda, Md., on Mr. Nixon's case of viral pneumonia.

101 to 102 degrees through the day, had not been hospitalized since his unsuccessful 1960 Presidential campaign, when he suffered a knee infection.

Mr. Nixon, who is 60 years old, will probably require a convalescence of a week to 10 days after leaving the hospital, the doctors said, because of the "debilitating" effects of pneumonia.