

# Nixon Keeps Getting Better

## Washington

President Nixon, past the midway point in recovery from viral pneumonia, continued to show improvement yesterday and could be out of the hospital by Thursday or Friday, his doctors reported.

Last night, Mrs. Nixon, accompanied by daughter Tricia Cox and Florida

friend C.G. (Bebe) Rebozo, spent an hour with Mr. Nixon in his third-floor suite at the Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital.

Mrs. Nixon and Tricia brought along the three family dogs on leashes. Asked what the President thought of the visitation by poodle Vicki, terrier Pasha and Irish setter King Timahoe,

Tricia told reporters, "They really perked him up."

Earlier, Dr. Sol Katz, a lung specialist, said the President "is progressing satisfactorily."

"He's vivacious, loquacious — an excellent patient."

But the doctors, including

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the president's personal physician Dr. Walter Tkach, said they still are having trouble persuading Mr. Nixon to reduce his work pace until recovery is complete.

Katz said the latest X-ray showed almost complete clearing of infection in the president's lungs, and "he ought to be able to leave by Thursday or Friday."

Mr. Nixon awoke at 8 a.m. after a good night's sleep — his third since he was taken to the hospital Thursday — and his spirits were described as "just fine." His temperature had been at or near normal for the past 24 hours, the doctors said.

Tkach said that four chest therapy treatments Sunday produced "considerable im-

provement in his chest congestion and chest discomfort is now at a minimum." Tkach said Sunday the President was at about the halfway point toward recovery.

But the doctors said the President still showed some of the lack of "zip and vigor" associated with the ailment, and does not have his full appetite back although he continues eating all he is given because he feels he should.

Mr. Nixon met during the morning with General Alexander Haig, his chief of staff, and is to continue conferring with other aides on his upcoming Phase Four program of economic controls.

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