

NYTimes JUL 17 1973
**Nixon, Better, Is Reported
Set to Decide on Phase 4**

WASHINGTON, July 16 (AP) —President Nixon, described today as "progressing satisfactorily" in his fight against viral pneumonia, was reported almost set to make final decisions on a Phase 4 economic program.

Doctors said that Mr. Nixon's condition continued to improve steadily and that he was "vivacious and loquacious."

Later Ronald L. Ziegler, press secretary, indicated the President would meet tomorrow at the Bethesda Naval Hospital with Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz, a major figure in Phase 4 planning.

Mr. Ziegler said that he expected an announcement of the new Phase 4 wage-price restraints later this week but said that he did not yet know the form the announcement would take. He said a television speech on the subject by Mr. Nixon had never been contemplated.

Price Rises Foreseen

Mr. Shultz told newsmen in his office today that plans for Phase 4 were nearly complete. He said that he hoped the American people would understand why Phase 4 would not be able to stop price increases. But, he said, it should slow them.

The Presidential physician, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, said that Mr. Nixon "has had no further difficulty with breathing" and that his right lung, the one most affected, had been shown by the latest X-rays to be essentially clear. He said that there was "still some evidence of minor congestion" in the lower segment of the left lung.

In an afternoon medical report, the White House said Mr. Nixon's temperature "was elevated to 99 degrees at noon." It went on: "His lungs reveal only minimal congestion. He continued his program of graduated activity and staff work. This is followed by a sense of fatigue. His overall condition was one of improvement."

At an earlier briefing, Mr. Nixon was reported as looking considerably better.

Mr. Nixon's periodic chest therapy sessions, aimed at clearing the lungs of congestion, were reduced from four to three a day today and the doctors said that there would be a cutback to a single session, probably starting tomorrow.

"One is struck by the fact that the President is looking considerably better," Dr. Katz

reported. But he added that Mr. Nixon was "not yet entirely well" and that "his zip and vigor is not yet normal."

The physicians said that they expected Mr. Nixon to tire easily until he was well into a recuperative period outside the hospital.

Mr. Ziegler left in doubt the amount of time the President would have available for the "peace and quiet" that Dr. Katz said he had recommended.

For example, the White House spokesman said that he expected no change in the scheduled arrival here July 24 of the Shah and Empress of Iran, who will be making a state visit.

Mr. Ziegler also said that Mr. Nixon planned to go ahead with meeting later in the month with Premier Kakuei Tanaka of Japan and Prime Minister Gough Whitlam of Australia.

An official visit by President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan, scheduled to begin tomorrow has been reset for Sept. 11, Mr. Ziegler announced.

Mr. Nixon had two official callers this morning, Mr. Ziegler and the White House chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. The press secretary said that Nixon had also received intelligence and news summaries.

Dr. Katz, asked about the possibility of a relapse, said that he viewed such prospects as minimal.

'Vivacious and Loquacious'

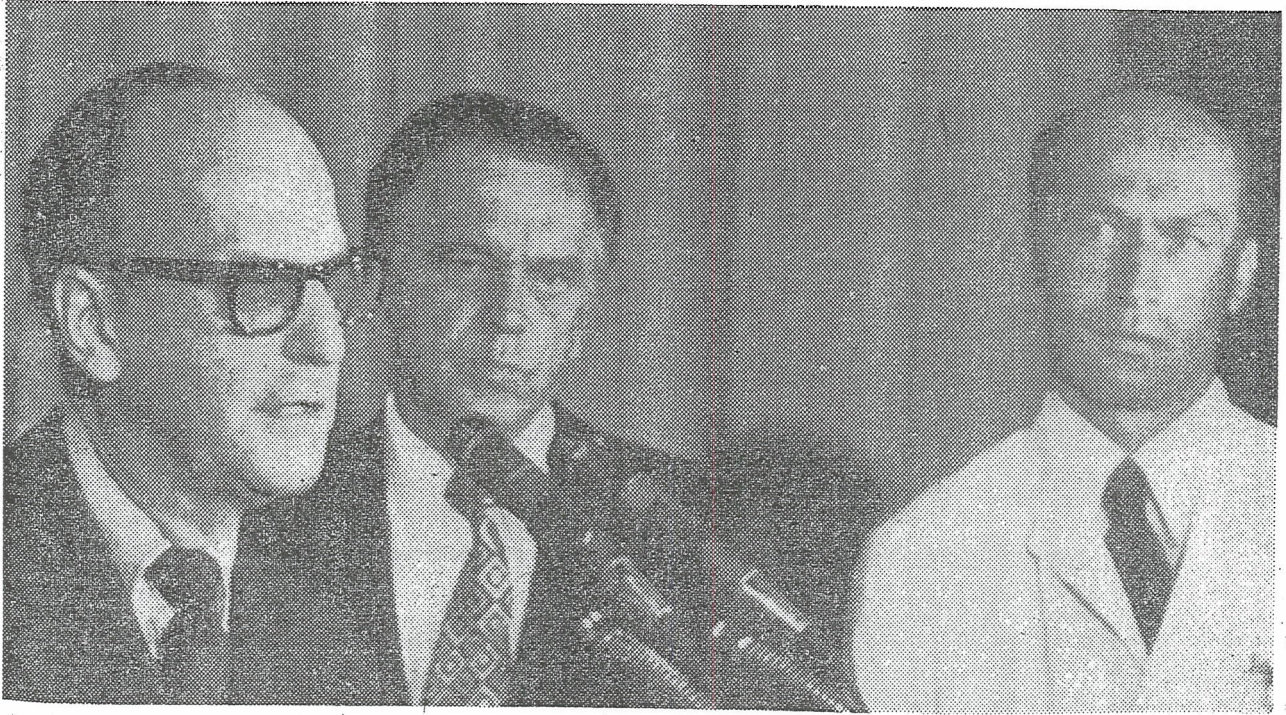
Asked if Mr. Nixon was despondent, he replied, "No, not at all," and described the President as an excellent patient who was "vivacious and loquacious."

Then, on second thought, Dr. Katz amended his remark about Mr. Nixon's being a good patient, saying he has taken a dim view of doctors' efforts to insist on a severe limitation of the amount of time he spends on official business.

Mr. Nixon slept until 8 A.M. today and had what was described as a restful night. A medical bulletin said that he had been given a mild analgesic following chest therapy yesterday.

Asked why pain-killing medicine was necessary, Dr. Katz said that the thumping and tapping of the chest during therapy left the patient feeling "somewhat beaten up."

Dr. Tkach and Dr. Katz emphasized anew that they hoped that Mr. Nixon would get away from the White House following his release from the hospital.



Associated Press

Dr. Sol Katz, left, pulmonary disease consultant from Georgetown University Hospital, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, center, and Dr. William Lukash, White House physician, briefing newsmen yesterday on President Nixon's condition.