

President to Leave Hospital on Friday For Camp David

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 17— President Nixon received word today that he could leave the hospital Friday.

On his fifth day at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Mr. Nixon was doing so well in his recovery from viral pneumonia that his chest therapy and medication were cut down.

The White House said he would go to the Presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., when he leaves the hospital, for a long weekend of recuperation. He will be back in Washington in time for a state visit by the Shah of Iran next Tuesday.

Mr. Nixon had a noontime session with Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz on the anti-inflation package that will be announced tomorrow. He also conferred during the morning with his two White House lawyers, Leonard Garment and J. Fred Buzhardt.

A 3 P.M. hospital report said the President continued his first day of "increased activity in staff work without difficulty." He ate his noontime meal and was reported "feeling well and his general improved physical state remains stable."

Mr. Nixon, his lungs reported to be clear for the first time since he was hospitalized last

land, was often damp and foggy, Dr. Tkach said, "We will pray for sunlight."

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Thursday night, was permitted some "courtesy calls" as well. Vice President Agnew had an afternoon appointment at the hospital. So did the Senate leaders of the two parties, Senators Mike Mansfield, Democrat of Montana, and Hugh Schott, Republican of Pennsylvania.

The White House physician, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, said he was smiling today "for the first time" because the President was looking and feeling so much better.

Dr. Tkach had recommended that Mr. Nixon go to his Florida or California homes, where he would be assured of sunshine. But the doctor said, "I lost the fight."

When it was pointed out that Camp David, in the Catoctin Mountains of western Mary-

The medical report today showed the President's temperature was normal. Dr. Tkach said, "The lungs are completely clear." The only problem was continued malaise, which the doctor described as a physical feeling of tiredness and achiness.

"It is not connected with a depression," he said in reply to a question.

Mr. Nixon is still displaying a lack of interest in food. But Dr. Tkach, who has known Mr. Nixon for years, said, "The President has never had a good appetite. He will eat because he has to. He is not a great eater."

He said the President lost two pounds during his illness and now weighs 168 pounds.

Mr. Nixon's only medication now is the continuing antibiotics. The sessions with an inhalator and a chest therapist are down from four to two a day.