

President's Health Is Found Good

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Nixon's health is good despite rumors to the contrary, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, the President's personal physician, said yesterday.

Tkach gave the President a brief physical examination yesterday on Mr. Nixon's first day back at his White House desk after 18 days in California.

The President's heart is in good condition, his pulse is normal and his chest is clear, Tkach told reporters after the check-up. He said he would discuss with the President today the rescheduling of a full-scale physical originally planned for Dec. 22 but postponed at the last moment.

Tkach acknowledged in response to questions that the President "at times looks tired, and some nights, I suppose, he doesn't sleep well."

When a reporter said that at times the President's eyes show fatigue, Tkach replied: "When I saw him he looked good."

Although the President does get tired, the physical checks "show nothing I've been able to detect," Tkach said, "and I doubt a complete physical would show anything."

The President's blood pressure has always been in the lower level of normal readings, Tkach added.

Asked if the President was seeing a psychiatrist, Tkach replied: "Hell, no."

Asked about a report that Mr. Nixon suffered a broken toe while swimming last summer at Camp David, the doctor said he did not know.

"I was up there when he skinned it," Tkach said. "I cleaned it up and put peroxide on it, but he did not want X-rays."

There have been reports that the President wants to put off his annual check up for some months because he underwent a complete check in Bethesda Naval Hospital last July when he had viral pneumonia.

Postponement of the physical has led to widespread rumors that the President is ill and that he may resign because of his health. Tkach said he was aware of the rumors.

Late yesterday, the President conferred with energy chief William E. Simon for a general review of the energy situation. Otherwise, he spent a routine day at his desk, meeting with staff aides and working on his State of the Union and budget messages.



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Mr. Nixon is pictured in his office after receiving a report that his physical condition is good.

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