

Relative Describes Nixon As in Pain and Depressed

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon is in physical pain and remains "way down, very depressed" despite the pardon he received, a member of his family reports. The family member sought out a telephone interview last night, asking not to be identified but saying: "This is something someone should talk about." Mr. Nixon's condition is of concern to his wife and family, according to the caller.

Mr. Nixon has seen and spoken with this individual both before and since resigning Aug. 9. They had a telephone conversation as recently as Monday night. There have been conflicting reports about Mr. Nixon's health, which President Ford mentioned Sunday in announcing a pardon for his predecessor, and about his state of mind.

The family member said that:

¶ Mr. Nixon is suffering from a recurrence of phlebitis, which on July 5 had been publicly described as resolved.

¶ The former President does not talk about his physical problems with his family members, who first learned of the phlebitis last summer, from his doctors, not from Mr. Nixon.

¶ He has made no decisions about returning to the public arena.

¶ He is reconsidering his announcement of last Dec. 10 that he would eventually give the San Clemente estate to the American people. This is part of

his current preoccupation with getting his personal affairs in order.

'Very Depressed'

Referring to the pardon, the family member said, "He's still way down, very depressed. He is in a deep depression," the caller continued, "I would hope the pardon would eventually lift that but I just haven't noticed that. There was no sudden elation."

The depression is aggravating the physical problems, according to the family member. "It's not that he's not sharp. He grasps things as quickly as ever. But the mental letdown plays on the physical problems. Each plays on the other and that cycle makes both worse."

After the resignation, the family drove north to Ventura, Calif.; one day and had a picnic on the beach. "We had planned to say overnight," this family member said. "But he couldn't continue because of the pain in his leg."

The phlebitis, a blood clot that developed in his left leg shortly before his June trip to the Middle East, has left the leg "swollen out of proportion to the other leg, the caller said.

Doubts on Health

The family member knew of no other specific medical problems but said, "From the way reports are coming back, I just feel there is something more.

"It is enough to worry Mrs. Nixon. The worse it would be, the less he would talk about it.

"In other words, he's obviously in pain. He's obviously concerned about his health, but he's not talking about it."

The family was described as being in this quandary: "He's always wanted us to talk it up, to say everything's fine no matter what the situation. It just isn't true."

Before President Ford granted the full pardon, Mr. Nixon was said to have been in a predicament over his personal affairs.

"He wanted to tie up his affairs and get them in a manageable way that only he could do. He wanted to do it for his family," the family member said.

"But he couldn't do that, because he had these other things hanging over him. If he had to prepare a legal defense, he would have been broke."

Pride in Foreign Policy

The caller said that Mr. Nixon worries about how history will judge his Administration, but draws strength from recalling his foreign policy accomplishments.

Recalling the former Presi-

dent's statement that resignation was "abhorrent to every instinct in my body," the family member, said: "He is a fighter and he wanted to stay there, but his mind overcame his emotions. His sense of realities won out in the end." The family member said that "his consolation is in saying it was the right thing for the country."

Asked about a published report that President Ford was concerned that Mr. Nixon might take his own life, this family member said:

"You have to understand that [Mr. Nixon] is a very strong, very religious man. He wouldn't consider suicide because of his religious convictions, but I guess you never know."

The Knight News Service distributed a report today saying that the family member was Edward F. Cox, Mr. Nixon's son-in-law. The Associated Press declined to comment on the report.