

Nixon Is Responding To Hospital Care

By Robert Meyers

Special to The Washington Post

LONG BEACH, Calif., Sept.

26—Former President Nixon "is responding satisfactorily" to treatment for "potentially dangerous" recurrence of phlebitis that caused a blood clot to settle in his right lung, his doctor reported here today.

John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, issued a statement today that said:

"Former President Nixon's latest medical complication, namely an embolus (clot) in the right lung, is responding satisfactorily to a combined therapy of oral and intravenous anticoagulants. Coumadin by mouth and heparin by continuous intravenous drip are being administered. This combined medication will be continued for a number of days."

Mr. Nixon entered the Memorial Medical Center of Long Beach Monday afternoon for treatment of his continuing phlebitis condition—a swelling and pain in the lower left leg.

On Wednesday Lungren hastily called a news conference to announce that a piece of the clot had moved from Mr. Nixon's left leg to his right lung. Lungren called the situation "potentially dangerous," but not critical "at this time."

Other medical experts reported that the clot in Mr. Nixon's lung no longer is dangerous. The risk, however, is that another piece will break off from the clot in his leg and move to the lung.

If the second clot were large enough, it could cause immediate death by blocking the main artery between the heart and the lung. A smaller clot could also threaten Mr. Nixon's life by triggering irregular heart activity.

The Lungren statement today also said, "Mrs. Nixon, who is a daily visitor at bedside, is being assessed (sic) of her husband's condition at frequent intervals."

Hospital spokesman Norman Nager also read a statement from Mr. Nixon's San Clemente home that said, "Mr. Nixon has been in phone contact with his daughters, Tricia and Julie. He is moved and pleased by the many well wishes he has received.

"With the exception of a jar of wheat germ from San Cle-

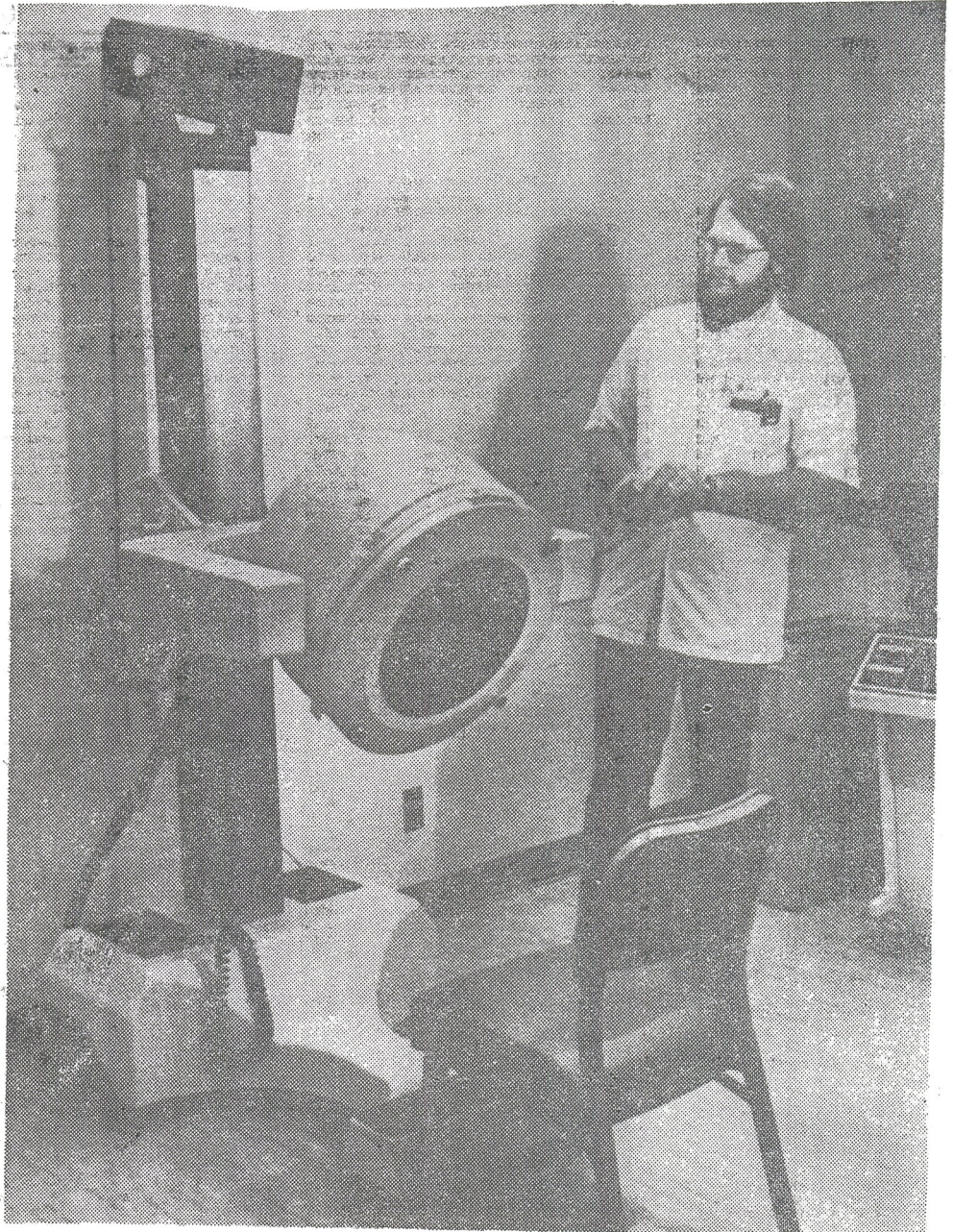
mente, he is eating Memorial Hospital food prepared by the Medical Center's own personnel."

United Press International reported that a Ford administration source said Wednesday that Mr. Nixon was "very irritated" because of what he considered a "begrudging attitude" in the government to deprive him of special privileges accorded other former Presidents. "He feels everyone is giving him a hard time," the source was quoted as saying.

Specialist in phlebitis not

connected with this case have expressed surprise over Lungren's description of the Nixon clot as being the size of a dime. These doctors said that a clot that size in the lung would have blocked one of the larger arteries in the lung and caused Mr. Nixon considerable pain.

The normal treatment of a case similar to Mr. Nixon takes seven to 10 days under hospital supervision, followed by outpatient treatment and the continuation of medication.



Associated Press

This nuclear camera was used to detect the blood clot in Mr. Nixon's lung.