

Nixon Leaves Hospital: Slow Recovery Seen

By Leroy F. Aarons
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LONG BEACH, Calif., Oct. 4
—Former President Nixon left Long Beach Memorial Hospital this morning for his San Clemente home and a one-to-three-month convalescence.

Mr. Nixon was released after 11 days of extensive tests and treatment of a phlebitis condition that had caused clotting in the left leg and right lung. The former President, seated in a wheelchair, was taken from his sixth-floor hospital ward to a loading entrance at the ground floor rear of the hospital at 11:30 a.m. (PDT).

He was accompanied by Mrs. Nixon and their daughter Tricia. Mr. Nixon, wearing a light blue suit and blue tie, had his left leg propped up on a stirrup of the wheelchair. He was helped from the chair, stood briefly to say goodbye to his doctor, and then entered a waiting black Cadillac limousine.

The former President appeared weak. He did not wave or give any indication that he was aware of spectators watching from the street outside the hospital.

After his departure, Mr. Nixon's physician, John C. Lungren, reaffirmed that the former President would not be permitted to travel for one to three months.

Surrounded by five other doctors who had been consulted on the case, Lungren told reporters that although Mr. Nixon's leg is less swollen and the lung damage smaller than when he entered the hospital Sept. 23, there was still "extreme potential danger" to Mr. Nixon from complications of the phlebitis and the prescribed treatment.

He said Mr. Nixon would continue to take oral doses of an anti-coagulant drug for several months. "This will require a period of controlled restricted activities," Lungren said, including no long periods of sitting, riding, standing or walking.

The dangers, Lungren said, include the possibility of stagnation or sludging of the blood in the veins of the left leg, if the restrictions are violated, or hemorrhaging.

Lungren explained that since the anti-coagulant drug thins the blood and discour-

ages clotting, a sharp blow to the leg could precipitate uncontrolled internal bleeding. He said Mr. Nixon will be given Vitamin K tablets to be used in the case of hemorrhage, and will carry a card saying he is on anti-coagulation therapy.

Lungren responded testily to the suggestion by one reporter that some people might see the long convalescence as a ploy to avoid having Mr. Nixon testify in the Watergate cover-up trial underway in Washington.

"I know there are a lot of doubting Thomases in America. The place is full of them . . . but I can't change it," he said. "I've been honest about it," he said. "I can see your point because of the timing . . . but I am trytical in giving you and the American people the professional attitude that I have toward this"

Lungren's position on restricted travel was supported by the other doctors, including Dr. Eldon Hickman, a vascular surgeon, who has examined Mr. Nixon at the hospital.

Lungren said he had discussed the matter of testimony with Mr. Nixon. He said responding to question, that the former President could be ready to give a deposition "in a few weeks."

Mr. Nixon left the hospital more exhausted than when he went in, Lungren said, the result of a long and demanding series of tests.

In addition to three lung scan examinations and a pancreas scan, Mr. Nixon had barium x-ray examinations of the colon, the gall bladder and the upper gastro-intestinal tract. Except for evidence of the clot on the lung, all the other tests proved negative.

"After being up all night, going to the bathroom, having repeated tests, [his state of fatigue] is probably worse than when he came in," Lungren said. He noted that Mr. Nixon's weight was 5 to 10 pounds below normal.



Associated Press

An attendant helps former President Nixon as he goes to his car, saying goodbye to his doctor, John C. Lungren, at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.



Kent Henderson, a photographer for The Long Beach Press-Telegram, said he was cursed by former President Nixon when he surprised Mr. Nixon at the hospital Thursday. He added that he was so startled he forgot to get a picture.



United Press International

Former President Nixon, accompanied by his daughter Julie and wife, Pat, is wheel-

ed from Long Beach Memorial Hospital after his release yesterday. Story, Page A4.