

# Nixon May Face Surgery

Long Beach

Sophisticated tests will be performed on former President Nixon this week to determine if new clots are forming in his leg—a condition that would probably require surgery, his physician said yesterday.

Even if surgery on the phlebitis-ridden leg is ruled out, Mr. Nixon will require close medical supervision for many months, said a consulting doctor. This may prohibit Mr. Nixon from testifying at the Watergate cover-up trial.

Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's physician since 1952, said that if it is not necessary to operate on the deep venous system of the former president's left leg, which was said to be "99 and 44-100 per cent clotted," Mr. Nixon can probably leave the hospital at the end of the week.

"We don't propose to do anything further unless we have indications of active clotting," Lungren said at a news conference.

"Then we would probably go to surgery."

He said Mr. Nixon is now responding to hospital treatment and is not in "any undue pain."

Mr. Nixon has been subpoenaed by both the defense and prosecution in the Watergate trial in Washington, D.C., of five former political associates.

Although Lungren refused to discuss the political or legal consequences of Mr.

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Nixon's health, he said in reply to a question:

"Mr. Nixon at some point will be available for court proceedings. I cannot say when. Over the long haul I'm sure he'll be available."

Dr. Wiley Barker, a consultant in the case, said the former president has "unquestionable clots in several veins of the left leg."

Mr. Nixon will have to undergo "close medical supervision for a protracted

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length of time, and by protracted length of time I mean many months," said Barker, of the UCLA medical school.

Mr. Nixon, 61, was admitted to Memorial Hospital Center of Long Beach last Wednesday, after Lungren found that the oral anticoagulant he was taking at his San Clemente estate was not working satisfactorily. He had been released from the hospital October 4 after 12 days of tests and treatment.

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for the phlebitis, a vein inflammation.

Dr. Scott Driscoll, another consulting physician, said tests last week showed a clot in the deep venous system of the left calf and another one in the superficial system of the lower portion of the leg.

"The deep venous system is 99 44-100 per cent clotted," Driscoll said. But he said there is a small superficial vein that is carrying blood to the major vein from the former chief executive's lower extremities.

Lungren said surgery would be indicated under any of three conditions: if there is evidence of a new clot formation; if he should "throw another embolus," or if Mr. Nixon continues to be "very difficult to control on anticoagulant therapy."

Surgery for Mr. Nixon's ailment is described as relatively safe and simple. There are several methods, but in one common procedure surgeons tie off the main vein returning blood from the legs to the heart thus preventing clots from traveling to vital organs. The job of returning blood from the legs to the heart, by smaller veins.

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