

Nixon Emergency

--Condition Critical

Shock Follows Operation

Long Beach

Former President Nixon went into shock and was placed on the critical list at Long Beach Memorial Hospital yesterday, six hours after undergoing surgery intended to block the potentially fatal movement of blood clots into his lungs or heart.

Hospital spokesman Norman Nager said, "The doctors are fighting for that man's life."

Mr. Nixon had been "resting comfortably" after the operation, which began at 5:30 a.m. and lasted a little more than an hour, when he "suddenly went into vascular shock" at 12:45 p.m., the hospital reported.

Mr. Nixon's personal physician, Dr. John Lungren, said a team of physicians and intensive care nurses immediately started to administer countershock measures and three hours later "a stable vascular condition was once again restored."

But Lungren said that Mr. Nixon's condition last night was "still considered critical."

Lungren added that a team of surgeons and nurses would remain with Mr. Nixon throughout the night.

He said that "this serious complication" which developed after the operation was probably caused by "some

retro - peritoneal bleeding secondary to anti-coagulation therapy."

To counteract the bleeding, Mr. Nixon was given blood transfusions while anti-coagulant therapy was relaxed, Dr. Lungren said.

The quantity of transfusions was not revealed.

Treatment of Mr. Nixon's kind of shock usually involves giving massive amounts of blood — from seven to nine pints.

Telephone calls from across the nation were flooding the switchboard at the hospital with "the callers of-

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fering their personal best wishes and sympathies," said a hospital spokesman.

The spokesman said many callers offered to donate blood to the former President.

Just after the seemingly routine surgery, Mr. Nixon had been described by the hospital as "doing well" and "resting comfortably" and making a normal recovery.

Mr. Nixon's wife, Pat, and his secretary, Rose Mary Woods, were at the hospital during the operation. Mrs. Nixon was waiting for her husband when he came out of surgery and remained with him during the day.

The Nixons' younger daughter, Julie Eisenhower, flew to Southern California from Washington, D.C., to be with her father.

Tricia Nixon Cox, the Nixon's other daughter, said earlier in New York City that she planned to fly to the hospital.

President Ford learned of Mr. Nixon's worsening condition after delivering a speech in Grand Rapids, Mich. He said, "I am deeply

concerned about the former President's health and I pray for his complete recovery."

California Governor Ronald Reagan was informed of Mr. Nixon's sudden turn for the worse as he arrived at a political reception in Newport Beach, Calif., last night.

"Maybe that'll satisfy the lynch mob," the governor snapped.

Mr. Nixon had said before he began his hospital treatment for phlebitis that he had a premonition that if he ever went into a hospital he would never come out alive.

The operation on the 61-year-old former President was designed to keep blood clots from moving into his lungs from diseased veins on his lower left side.

The simple operation, carried out by Dr. Eldon Hickman and two assisting surgeons, lasted a little more than an hour.

The operation was hurriedly set up after a test late Monday showed a new blood clot in Mr. Nixon's left iliac vein. Doctors had not known about this particular clot before. (28 27)

The iliac vein connects the femoral vein in the thigh to the inferior vena cava vein in the abdomen. The vena cava carries blood to the heart.

Previous tests had revealed a large clot in the deep femoral vein of the former President's left thigh and doctors were very concerned that it would break loose and travel to the heart or lung area, where it could cause rapid death.

But when the test Monday disclosed there was another large blood clot even closer to the lungs than the one in his thigh, Drs. Lungren and Wiley Barker, along with Hickman, decided to operate

as soon as possible.

In the operation, Hickman — a vascular surgeon — placed a small plastic device called a "Miles clamp" on Mr. Nixon's left iliac vein just above the newly found clot.

Like a clothespin on a garden hose, the Miles clamp squeezed Mr. Nixon's vein and partially closed it.

Clots, being larger than the now-reduced passageway in that segment of the vein, will be blocked, but blood will still be able to flow through the restricted area to reach Mr. Nixon's heart.

The Miles clamp is about one inch long, a quarter of an inch wide and weighs less than one-tenth of an ounce. It will remain inside Mr. Nixon as long as he lives.

Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, said the clamp should end once and for all the hazards of clots from the former President's thrombophlebitis - troubled left leg.

Whatever is at the root of the deep vein disease in the former President's left leg, it does not appear to be present in his right leg.

A series of tests have shown the veins in that leg to be free of the inflammation and clots that have characterized the left one.

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