

# Doctors' Statement on Nixon

*Following is the text of the statement issued at Long Beach memorial hospital yesterday at 9:30 a.m. Pacific time, by Dr. John C. Lungren, cardiologist and personal physician to former President Nixon, and Dr. Eldon Hickman, cardio-vascular surgeon who headed Mr. Nixon's surgery team.*

The Former President of the United States is still on the critical list. His condition, however, is more stable this morning and he shows some improvement.

It appears that his internal bleeding has stopped. His vital signs are stable.

Former President Nixon did have some interrupted sleep during the night. He is receiving medication for pain, restlessness and occasional nausea and also is being administered intrave-

nous and antibiotic therapy. Hopefully, we can resume anti-coagulant therapy when we feel safe that bleeding from surgery is no longer a danger.

Mr. Nixon continues to be under intensive care. Specially trained critical care nurses are with him around the clock. All emergency resuscitation equipment for any contingency is at his bedside. He is being monitored as any patient in critical condition and this includes continuous monitoring of heart activity and such tests of constant monitoring of blood volume determination.

A naso-gastric tube is being used to prevent distention of his abdomen and was ordered because Mr. Nixon has some paralytic ileus, that is, partial paralysis of normal movement of the gastro-intestinal tract. This

frequently occurs after retroperitoneal bleeding has occurred.

The internal bleeding with which we have been concerned was secondary to the anti-coagulation Mr. Nixon has been receiving because of the threat of clots. There were no significant bleeding problems encountered at the time of surgery.

He has received three pints of blood. Several more units of blood are being held in reserve.

We, as his physicians, deeply appreciate the offers for assistance and prayers from all over the world.

I [Dr. Lungren] have been in contact with Dr. William Lukash, President Ford's White House physician, both last night and early this morning. He expressed President Ford's deep concern over Mr. Nixon's condition

and asked me to convey to former President and Mrs. Nixon that his prayers are for his full and complete recovery.

Dr. Lukash also requested that I keep in contact with him so he and President Ford may be apprised of any change in the former President's condition.

We will do this and, consistent with the medical ethics of the physician-patient relationship, do our best to keep the American public and the peoples of other nations informed about significant developments.

At this time, it would be premature to provide a prognosis.

A hospital spokesman said unless there are any significant changes in condition or treatment, the next report from the physicians will be midmorning Pacific Coast time Thursday.