

Statement by Nixon Doctors

United Press International

Text of the statement issued yesterday by physicians attending former President Nixon:

Dr. John Lungren, cardiologist and personal physician to former President Richard M. Nixon, and Dr. Eldon Hickman, cardiovascular surgeon who headed Mr. Nixon's surgery team, issued the following bulletin Thursday morning at Memorial Hospital.

The former President of the United States spent a more restful night. His vital signs now are stable. His blood pressure is 140 over 80. His pulse is 80 and regular. There has been a slight drop in the hemoglobin count of one-half gram since last night.

The significance of this change is being evaluated this morning. It may represent normal hemodilution, or we are keeping in mind the possibility of a slow oozing of blood into the retroperitoneal phase.

Again, the peritoneum is the tissue fat around the lining of the abdomen. Retro means behind.

Yesterday, former President Nixon was given one additional unit of packed red blood cells. We reported yesterday he had received three units. Since then, one additional unit of packed blood cells has been used.

His family is here from early morning until late evening and Mrs. Nixon visits her husband, Julie and Tricia visit with their dad briefly at hourly intervals.

His spirits, his mental attitude are excellent. He is alert. He is oriented to everything going on around him and he is cooperative.

Although he remains stable, he has not been taken off the critical list yet.

The possibility still exists for further complications. He remains under intensive observation by physicians and critical-care nurses. It is still premature to offer a prognosis at this time.

A hospital spokesman said this concluded the report of the physicians and he added:

Ladies and gentlemen at this time there is no time scheduled for the next briefing. Instead, the doctors

promise to issue new information at such time as there is any significant change and as soon as they are free to give me the information or come down here.

They are not here, they have to be not only with Mr. Nixon but with other sick patients in this hospital demanding of their time and services. Please understand we have a commitment to more than 600 patients. That is our primary commitment.



Associated Press

Hospital spokesman Nager reads statement on Mr. Nixon.