

Nixon Has Pneumonia

Long Beach

Former President Nixon has developed a slight case of pneumonia in his right lung, another complication on his road to recovery from an operation last week, his doctors revealed yesterday.

Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, said X-rays of the former President's chest "suggests a small area of pneumonitis" — which is the same as pneumonia.

Later, Connie B. Hamilton, chief nurse of the intensive care section at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, where Mr. Nixon is being treated, said the pneumonia only has affected "a very small portion of the lung."

Nevertheless, it is another worrisome sign for Mr. Nixon's doctors, who had had to treat the former President for a host of medical complications since they operated on him October 29.

The complications started six hours after surgery with massive internal bleeding

that threw him into shock and, according to Lungren, brought Mr. Nixon to the brink of death.

Pneumonia developed in an area of his right lung that doctors found last week to be inactive, a condition known as atelectasis. This condition was revealed by the doctors for the first time yesterday.

The doctors said that their tests showed that the atelectasis was due to pneumonia, ruling out speculation Tuesday night that Mr. Nixon had suffered a collapsed right lung.

Pneumonia is a common complication of patients who have been bedridden for long periods of time. Mr. Nixon has been in the hospital for 15 days.

The doctors said Mr. Nixon is running a slight fever.

The doctors gave an encouraging report yesterday about a problem in Mr. Nixon's left lung — the presence of a small amount of fluid. They said that the X-ray showed the fluid "is continu-

ing to diminish."

In general the doctors said that Mr. Nixon "is exhibiting slow but gradual improvement" but they kept

him under the constant watch of a nurse in what the hospital called sub-intensive care.

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