

# Nixon Reportedly Improv But Developes Pneumonia

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 6 —Former President Richard M. Nixon's condition shows "gradual improvement" as he walks more, but he has developed a patch of pneumonia in his right lung, Mr. Nixon's doctors said here today.

Because of the new complication, Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's physician, said in a bulletin that "it still would be premature to offer a prognosis at this time" for the 61-year-old former President.

It was Mr. Nixon's second bout of pneumonia. In July, 1973, he was treated at Bethesda Naval Hospital for what was described as a viral pneumonia that affected both lungs.

This second bout of pneumonia is the latest of a series of serious complications that Mr. Nixon has suffered since his operation eight days ago. Mr. Nixon went into shock six hours after the operation at Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach. Surgeons had clamped off a vein in his thigh to prevent any clot from lodging in his lung. SETPU 1ST  
**Lost Consciousness**

Today, a nurse who attended Mr. Nixon when he went into shock said that he had lost consciousness for about one second and had quickly regained consciousness thereafter.

In Dr. Lungren's bulletin, which the hospital issued at 10 A.M. today, the specialist in internal medicine said he had prescribed antibiotic drugs for the pneumonia that became evident in an area that had appeared atelectastic on previous X-rays. Atelectasis is a condition in which an area of the lung is not fully expanded. It is a common post-operative condition, and it can be complicated by pneumonia.

"The area of atelectasis on the right lung now radiographically suggests a small area of pneumonitis," the bulletin said.

Pneumonitis, which means inflammation of the lung, can be caused by a wide variety of factors ranging from bacteria and other infectious agents to chemicals.

A hospital spokesman said that Dr. Lungren considered pneumonitis synonymous with pneumonia.

Pneumonia means inflammation of the lung, but the word also implies that a portion of the lung is consolidated by the body's inflammatory response to infection.

Normally, the lung is spongy as air fills the microscopic-size sacs. When consolidated as in pneumonia, these spaces tend to solidify with a collection of fluid, protein, cells and debris from the inflammatory process.

Dr. Lungren's bulletin did not state which antibiotic drugs he had prescribed for Mr. Nixon. Dr. Lungren has said that he prescribed "intravenous anti-

biotic therapy" after Dr. Eldon Hickman operated on Mr. Nixon. It is not known if the doctors stopped the antibiotic therapy during the last week or if the antibiotics were changed in accordance with results of bacteriologic tests of the sputum Mr. Nixon has been encouraged to cough up.

But if Mr. Nixon's pneumonia is caused by bacteria, a week of antibiotic therapy has increased the chances that the bacteria have developed some resistance to antibiotics.

X-rays usually do not provide specific diagnoses of atelectasis and pneumonia. A radiologist not connected with the case said that it can be difficult to distinguish atelectasis from other conditions on X-rays. Among such conditions are a pulmonary emboli, or blood clots that have lodged in the lung.

Mr. Nixon's operation last week, in which a clamp was put on the iliac vein in his pelvis, was designed to prevent such clots from traveling from his leg to his lung.

Dr. Lungren said Mr. Nixon had "a low" temperature of an unspecified degree that the internist attributed "to two things, the pneumonia and the absorption process in" Mr. Nixon's left flank where he suffered internal bleeding after surgery.

Mr. Nixon had a slight fever last week, but Dr. Lungren's bulletin last Sunday he said that Mr. Nixon's temperature had returned to normal. 10 AM

## HOSPITAL BULLETIN

More definitive studies of former President Nixon's chest, which included upright chest films, disclosed that fluid on the left lung base is continuing to diminish. The area of atelectasis on the right lung now radiologically suggests a small area of pneumonitis. Accordingly former President Nixon is being treated with effective antibiotic therapy.

He is running a low grade

(or slightly elevated) temperature which is due to two things, the pneumonitis and the absorption process in the area of the hematoma.

His hematologic problem is still under investigation and, accordingly, anticoagulation therapy has not been reinstated as of yet.

Generally, he is exhibiting slow but gradual improvement and his activities are being increased gradually.

He remains under sub-intensive care. It still would be premature to offer a prognosis at this time.