

NIXON IMPROVING; PNEUMONIA EASES

Doctor Says in Bulletin That
Antibiotics Are Helping
Ex-President's Lung

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN
Special to The New York Times

LONG BEACH, Nov. 7—
Former President Richard M. Nixon's pneumonia is getting better and his condition "continues to improve" as he remains under sulintensive care at Memorial Hospital Medical Center here, Mr. Nixon's doctor said today.

Dr. John C. Lungren, the physician, said in a bulletin issued at 10:30 A.M. that the pneumonia "is responding well to antibiotic therapy."

Dr. Lungren also said that Mr. Nixon's heart had held up well during a series of complications that he has weathered during the nine days since he went into shock from internal bleeding.

Shock occurred six hours after surgery. In the operation, a clothespin-like device was clamped across the left iliac vein in Mr. Nixon's pelvis to prevent a clot in the left leg from floating to his lungs.

Dr. Lungren has told Mr. Nixon's lawyers that the former President will be unable to testify in the Watergate cover-up trial for at least two or three months. The lawyers so informed Judge John L. Sirica yesterday, and the judge raised the possibility of interviews with Mr. Nixon in California that would be videotaped for use in the trial.

Filed on Tuesday

Dr. Lungren's affidavit on the president's condition apparently was filed Tuesday.

Norman Nager, a spokesman for Memorial Hospital, said at a news conference today:

"I did verify with Dr. Lungren that there had been an affidavit taken from him and that the at least two or three months phrase was accurate."

Mr. Nixon's lawyers also said that he could be expected to be hospitalized another 10 days to two weeks, according to Dr. Lungren. Asked if Dr. Lungren verified that statement, Mr. Nager replied:

"I have not heard about 10 to 14 days of hospitalization. I just checked the two to three months which is the only thing I heard [on the radio] on the way in this morning."

In today's bulletin, Dr. Lungren said Mr. Nixon was walking more each day. Mr. Nixon times his ambulation therapy so he can greet members of his family as they arrive to visit him on the hospital's seventh floor.

As Mr. Nixon walks more, the pleural effusion, or collection of fluid in his left chest, "is becoming smaller," Dr. Lungren said.

Mr. Nixon's vital signs remain stable, Dr. Lungren said, but the specialist in internal medicine did not give his patient's specific blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and temperature.

10:30 A.M.
DR. LUNGREN'S BULLETIN

Former President Nixon continues to improve.

His vital signs are stable.

X-ray studies show that the small area of pneumonitis in his right lung is responding well to antibiotic therapy and resolving. The pleural effusion, that is the fluid in the left lung, is becoming smaller.

His cardiological status to date has been remarkably stable through all the complications and the electrocardiogram monitoring line has been removed.

We're gradually increasing his activities.