

Nixon Progresses in Recovery, but His Pneumonia Persists

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

Special to The New York Times

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 8 —Former President Richard M. Nixon advanced a step in his recovery from post-operative complications, but a new X-ray showed that the pneumonia in his right lung persists, Mr. Nixon's doctors said here today.

A hospital spokesman said, meanwhile, that Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's chief physician, would have no comment on the announcement by Judge John J. Sirica, who is presiding at the Watergate cover-up trial in Washington, that he would appoint three doctors to examine the former President to see if he is able to provide testimony.

Mr. Nixon was readmitted to the hospital on Oct. 223 and then had an operation on Oct. 29. In that operation, Dr. Eldon Hickman put a clotheshpin-like clamp across the left iliac vein in Mr. Nixon's pelvis to prevent a clot from traveling from his leg to his lungs.

Continued Improvement

Six hours after the operation, Mr. Nixon went into shock as a result of internal bleeding. Subsequently, Dr. Lungren reported that Mr. Nixon had suffered a series of less-serious complications, including the pneumonia that the former President is now battling.

Dr. Lungren has not held a news conference since Oct. 31. Instead, he has issued daily media medical bulletins about Mr. Nixon's condition.

In today's bulletin, Dr. Lungren said Mr. Nixon's "condi-



United Press International

Jackie Wilson of Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Long Beach, Calif., gives news of Richard M. Nixon provided by doctor.

condition from the time he went into shock until earlier this week when it was changed to serious and he received what was called "subintensive care."

Dr. Lungren's bulletin said that the specialist in internal medicine would "probably" resume Mr. Nixon's anticoagulation, or blood thinning therapy, this weekend. This therapy was stopped as a result of Mr. Nixon's internal bleeding and shock.

Dr. Lungren also said he would continue to prescribe unspecified antibiotic drugs "for a few more days" to treat the persistent pneumonia in the liver lobe of Mr. Nixon's right lung.

An X-ray taken early this morning, when compared with those taken previously, showed "persistence of right lower lobe infiltrate with associated discoid [disk-shaped] atelectasis," Dr. Lungren said.

Invasion of Organ

Radiologists use the word "infiltrate" to describe the invasion of an organ, such as a lung, by materials not normally present. An infection, such as pneumonia, can be described as an infiltrate. Dr. Lungren, in an earlier bulletin, said that Mr. Nixon had "a small area of pneumonitis," or pneumonia, in an area of atelectasis in the right lung. Atelectasis, derived from the Greek words meaning "in perfect expansion, is a common post-operative complication.

The sew chest X-ray also showed "improvement of left sided pleural effusion," or a

collection of fluid, in the left side of Mr. Nixon's chest, Dr. Lungren said. The improvement followed the increased walking and activities that Dr. Lungren has prescribed.

For about 10 minutes this afternoon, Mr. Nixon received Imelda Romualdez Marcos, wife of the President of the Philippines. Mrs. Marcos stopped at the hospital on the way to New York where she plans to dedicate the Philippine Center.

"He looked very weak," Mrs. Marcos said. She added, "I couldn't stay that long because I could see he was easily tired."

DR. LUNGREN'S BULLETIN

Former President Nixon's condition is continuing to improve. His status is now classified as in-hospital re-

covery period. The latest comparative chest film taken earlier this morning is as follows:

1. Improvement of left-sided pleural effusion.
2. Persistence of right lower-lobe infiltrate with associated discoid atelectasis.

His activity is gradually being increased and with this, less monitoring parameters are being employed. We will continue to administer antibiotics for a few more days. The anti-coagulation therapy will probably be re-instituted this weekend.

Barring any major changes or complications in the former President's condition, the next scheduled health report will be 10:30 A.M. Monday, Nov. 11.