

REPORT ON NIXON ORDERED BY JUDGE

At Issue Is Acceptance of
Court-Appointed Doctors

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (AP) —United States District Judge John J. Sirica today ordered Richard M. Nixon's lawyer to report back by next Tuesday on whether the former President will resist an independent medical inquiry by three court-appointed doctors.

Judge Sirica summoned Mr. Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller Jr., to his courtroom after the doctors declined to go ahead with any examination in connection with the Watergate cover-up trial without advance clearance obtained from Mr. Nixon.

The former President was released yesterday from a hospital in Long Beach, Calif., and is recuperating at his San Clemente estate from complications of a chronic phlebitis condition.

Judge Sirica said he had spoken with Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel, chairman of the medical panel, and been told the physicians "won't go out there to California unless they have authorization."

The judge recommended that Mr. Miller immediately call Dr. Hufnagel to establish some preliminary ground rules for an inquiry.

A Skilled Medical Team

By VICTOR K. McELHENY

The panel of heart and blood-circulation specialists ordered by United States District Judge John J. Sirica to examine former President Richard M. Nixon and his medical records, to determine his physical fitness to give testimony in the Watergate cover-up trial, includes the outgoing president of the American Heart Association, Dr. Richard Starr Ross of the Johns Hopkins University Hospital and Medical School in Baltimore.

Both Dr. Ross, 50 years old, and the chairman of the panel, Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel, 58, of the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, grew up in Indiana and attended Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ross did his undergraduate work at Harvard College and Dr. Hufnagel at the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Hufnagel, a pioneer in heart surgery and the replacement of diseased heart valves with plastic substitutes, re-

ceived the American Heart Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1969.

Dr. Hufnagel's work on artificial heart valves could turn out to be relevant to Mr. Nixon's treatment, according to Dr. Clifford Barger of the physiology department of the Harvard Medical School.

The work on Plastic valves, according to Dr. Barger, required finding materials that not only would not be rejected by the body's immunity defenses, but that also would not promote blood-clotting, which has been a major factor in Mr. Nixon's phlebitis condition.

'A Good Team'

"It's a good team," Dr. Barger said in a telephone interview, observing that all three members were "investigators and clinicians as well as administrators."

The third member of the panel, Dr. John A. Spittel Jr., 49, was a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland Medical School before going to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., as a student in 1952 and joining its permanent staff in 1966.

According to Judge Sirica's order, the three specialists "shall conduct such examination as is necessary to complete a report to the court" on Mr. Nixon's physical readiness to testify, "including review of medical records and a physical examination of the witness."

The physicians are to obtain the consent of Mr. Nixon or his attorney beforehand, the order said, and any refusal is to be reported to Judge Sirica immediately.

Dr. Barger recalled yesterday that Dr. Hufnagel began his work on heart surgery under Dr. Robert E. Gross of the Harvard Medical School before World War II. Dr. Hufnagel and Dr. Gross devised an operation for closing an abnormal connection between the pulmonary artery and the aorta, a connection that normally closes soon after birth. Dr. Hufnagel did many of the animal experiments leading up to the new operation.

Dr. Hufnagel moved from Harvard Medical School and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital to Georgetown University Hospital and Medical School in 1950. There is director of the experimental surgical laboratory and chairman of the department of surgery, and is a consultant at 10 other Washington-area hospitals.

A spokesman for the hospital said yesterday that Dr. Hufnagel's invention in 1952 of an artificial heart valve and development of an operation to implant it was the first use of plastics to substitute for an organ in the human body. Georgetown University Hospital estimates that some 70,000 of the devices have already been implanted.