

# Nixon Checkup Doctors Arrive

## Los Angeles

The three court-appointed physicians flew here yesterday to determine whether former President Nixon is healthy enough to testify at the Watergate coverup trial.

Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel of Georgetown University and two other specialists were appointed by U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica as an independent panel to see if Mr. Nixon can appear in person or if it will be necessary to take written depositions.

The timetable for examining Mr. Nixon is uncertain, but it is possible that Hufnagel and the other two doctors — Dr. John A. Spittel

Jr. of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and Dr. Richard Starr Ross of Johns Hopkins University — could begin their examination today. Sirica has asked for a report on Mr. Nixon by Friday. 29 NOV

Mr. Nixon, recovering from phlebitis surgery and post-operative complications, has said he is not opposed to the examinations, although his personal physician, Dr. John Lungren, said last week that he could not imagine any sort of physical examination which would not endanger the health of his patient.

Before leaving Washington, however, Hufnagel did not say that the three doctors

would necessarily perform a physical examination of Mr. Nixon. He said records at Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, where Mr. Nixon had surgery on his left leg, might be sufficient to make a report to Sirica.

Mr. Nixon, 61, was released from Memorial Hospital November 14. He was in critical condition for six days during his stay.

Mr. Nixon has been subpoenaed as both a defense and prosecution witness in the Washington, D.C., coverup trial, at which some of his former aides are defendants.

*Associated Press*