

Nixon Undergoes Exam By the Court Doctors

San Clemente

Former President Nixon was examined by court-appointed doctors in his seafront estate here yesterday to get an opinion on whether his health would be endangered by testifying at the Watergate coverup trial.

Three doctors named by U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica drove here in a U.S. marshal's car after spending the morning going over Mr. Nixon's records at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

The head of the panel, Dr. Charles Hufnagel, refused to **answer any questions** about the preliminary findings. The doctors are under orders to report back to Sirica by Friday.

Sirica had indicated that depending upon their findings he might transfer the entire case of the Watergate trial to San Clemente temporarily to hear Mr. Nixon's testimony.

The visiting doctors were accompanied to San Clemente by Dr. Eldon B. Hickman, the surgeon who performed an operation on Mr. Nixon October 29 to prevent the movement of blood clots from his left leg to his heart and lungs.

Hickman and Dr. John Lungren, Mr. Nixon's personal physician, both have reported previously that Mr. Nixon came close to death in a relapse after the surgery and should not be submitted

to stress for up to three months.

Hufnagel spent more than three hours going over Mr. Nixon's records at the hospital.

Hufnagel refused to give any indication of the type of examination doctors gave Mr. Nixon at his home — whether they simply talked with him, or conducted medical tests.

The three physicians spent an hour and 50 minutes inside the Nixon estate and drove out without stopping to talk to a group of waiting newsmen.

It was announced they will hold a news conference at 11 a.m. today at Los Angeles International Airport before they return to Washington.

Lungren is on vacation and did not take part in the conferences or tests.

When Mr. Nixon was released from the hospital earlier this month after a 23-day stay, Lungren said the 61-year-old former President was endangered by even small amounts of stress and that a medical examination in itself might be stressful.

Hufnagel is chief of surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington. The other doctors are John J. Spittel Jr., 49, of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and Richard Starr Ross, 50, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

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