

Doctors' Secret Nixon Decision

Los Angeles

Three court-appointed doctors who spent an hour examining former President Nixon Monday said yesterday they are "absolutely unanimous" in their decision on whether he is well enough to testify at the Watergate coverup trial in Washington.

But they refused to divulge what their decision is.

"The report is confidential and we are not permitted to disclose anything more," the head of the group, Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel, said at a news conference at Los Angeles International Airport just before the three boarded a plane for Washington.

Hufnagel, chief of surgery

at Georgetown University in Washington, said the report, which he described as "specific, brief and to the point," will be delivered to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica in Washington Friday.

Hufnagel said that he and the other two doctors examined Mr. Nixon at his San Clemente estate Monday "with his consent and cooperation" after studying his medical records at Long Beach Memorial Hospital.

Asked how Mr. Nixon viewed the examination, Hufnagel replied, "I can't answer that."

The other doctors are John A. Spittell Jr. of the Mayo Clinic and Richard Starr Ross, cardiovascular

disease professor at John Hopkins University.

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