

Doctors' Report

Washington

Text of the report by three court-appointed physicians presented yesterday to U.S. District Judge John Sirica concerning former President Nixon's fitness to testify at the Watergate trial:

To: The Honorable John J. Sirica, U.S. District Judge

From: Medical Panel —
Charles A. Hofnagel, M.D.,
Chairman; Richard S. Ross,
M.D. and John A. Spittell
Jr., M.D.

Subject: The Physical condition of Mr. Richard M. Nixon.

On Nov. 25, 1974, we visited the Long Beach Memorial Hospital where we interviewed Dr. Eldon Hickman and reviewed the medical records, X-rays, special studies and laboratory data of Mr. Richard Nixon. Subsequently we examined Mr. Nixon at his home on the of Mr. Nixon was carried out with his consent and cooperation. On the basis of the above, we submit the following opinions to the questions posed in the court order filed on Nov. 13, 1974:

1. Mr. Nixon is not personally able to travel to Washington, D.C. to testify.
2. It is difficult to predict with accuracy when such a trip to Washington, D.C., might be accomplished without excessive risk. If recovery proceeds at the anticipated rate, and there are no further complications, we would estimate that such a trip be possible by Feb. 16, 1975.
3. Mr. Nixon is not presently able to appear and testify at a site near his home.
4. If his recovery proceeds at the anticipated rate, and there are no further complications, we would estimate that he should be able to testify at a courtroom near his home by Feb. 2, 1975.
5. Mr. Nixon is not presently able to be deposed by the parties in this case.
6. If recovery proceeds at the anticipated rate, and there are no further complications, we would estimate that he should be able to give a deposition in his home by Jan. 6, 1975.
7. If a deposition is to be taken as described in response to (6) above, we suggest it be obtained in no more than two daily sessions of no longer than one hour each. There should be adequate opportunity for rest between sessions. A physician should be in attendance to monitor Mr. Nixon's condition during the taking of a deposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Hofnagel,
M.D., chairman of medical
panel.