

# Doctors' View on Nixon

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 29—  
Following are the texts of a letter and a report of a panel of physicians appointed by Federal District Judge John J. Sirica to determine whether former President Richard M. Nixon is physically able to testify in the Watergate cover-up trial.

## Letter

Dear Judge Sirica:

The report of the medical panel is submitted with this letter. All members were in agreement with the opinions it contains. The dates stipulated are the expression of our judgment at the present time and are subject to modification by unknown future medical developments.

If required by the court the panel can submit the medical reasons and data upon which it based its report. This would involve specific information regarding his condition, which we have been instructed is confidential.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the reasons for the opinions expressed by the panel, if you wish.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Hufnagel, M.D.  
Chairman, Medical Panel

## Report

To the Honorable John J. Sirica, U.S. District Judge

From: Medical panel — Charles A. Hufnagel, 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 M. Nixon.

Subsequently, we examined Mr. Nixon at his home on the same date. The examination of Mr. Nixon was carried out with his consent and cooperation. On the basis of the above, we submit the following opinions in response to the questions posed in the court order filed on Nov. 13, 1974:

1. Mr. Nixon is not presently 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 should be possible by Feb. 16, 1975.

3. Mr. Nixon is not presently able to appear and testify at a site near his house.

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 court room 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 the deposition.