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Nixon Shows Improvement, Doctor Says

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Dec. 4 (UPI) — Former President Nixon's Phlebitis condition has improved and he will soon be able to increase his physical activity gradually, his doctor said today.

However, the report also indicated no change in the long period of convalescence that prevents Nixon from testifying in the Watergate trial in Washington.

Dr. Eldon B. Hickman, who attended the former President during both of his stays at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, issued a favorable statement on Nixon's condition after an afternoon visit at his seaside estate.

"I am pleased that Mr. Nixon is making satisfactory progress, although he clearly remains in a period of convalescence," Hickman said.

"Mr. Nixon has not regained his normal weight and tires easily. There are no indications of additional complications at this time."

Hickman said Nixon left his compound this morning for the first time since being released from the hospital on Nov. 14, to undergo chest X-ray examinations at the nearby Marine Corps hospital clinic at Camp Pendleton.

Hickman said the X-rays "indicate clearing of the left plural effusion in the area of right pneumontis," a complication that developed after Nixon underwent surgery for his blood clots.

"I have advised gradual increase in limited activity, frequent monitoring of blood pressure, continued use of an elastic stocking and periodic examinations," the doctor said.