

Friday, July 13, 1973
Charles Kuralt

BETHESDA

President Nixon remains a patient tonight - at Bethesda Naval Hospital; a victim of viral pneumonia - affecting one-third to one-half of his right lung.

The latest hospital report is encouraging though. The doctors said "a follow-up chest X-ray taken this afternoon - showed no progression of pneumonia." The President continues "to experience discomfort of chest congestion - the medical report said - but he is resting with more ease." In addition to analgesics and antibiotics - the President is receiving so-called "inhalation therapy" four times a day.

The President received a visit today - from Mrs. Nixon and David and Julie Eisenhower. When she later left the hospital - the First Lady is said to have looked "tense." This is the President's first serious illness - since he took office four years ago.

The President's condition forced a delay in his scheduled meeting - with Chairman Sam Ervin of the Senate Watergate Committee. Ervin expressed the hope, that he will be able to meet with the President - sometime next week.

WATERGATE

White House Counsel Richard Moore - was again testifying today before the Senate Watergate Committee; again rebutting the testimony of former Presidential Counsel John Dean.

Moore said that until March of this year - he "believed implicitly and totally" as the President has said he did; "that no one in the White House" - had been involved in the Watergate affair. Moore added, however, that "guarded comments" by Dean - then began to raise his suspicions; and he finally advised Dean - he said - to tell the President the full story.

Moore also told of a later conversation - in which, he said, he told the President: "If you don't take action and get the facts quickly - you will be accused of a cover-up of a cover-up; and that, sir, will come into the Oval Office - and affect you." The President is said to have responded by saying: "I understand - I understand - I thank you."

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Whereupon he reportedly undertook the steps - that soon led to a wholesale White House shake-up.

TALLAHASSEE

The only woman member of the President's Cabinet -
Mrs. Anne Armstrong ^{was} a welcome guest today at
Tallahassee, Florida; ^{where she turned} ~~there turning~~ over to the State of
Florida - nearly a thousand acres of so-called "under-
utilized" lands; soon to become parks - and recreational
areas. This as part of the President's "Legacy of Parks"
program - which Mrs. Armstrong heads.

Along the way, the lady "Counsellor to the President"
- also offered ^{an} insight into the President's thinking re
the Watergate. "He was upset and deeply worried a number
of weeks ago" - said Mrs. Armstrong - "as he was finding
out things shocking and deeply disturbing. But once he made
the decisions as to who ~~to~~ let go and who ~~to~~ appoint" - she
continued - "once he put into motion steps to guarantee full
disclosure - he turned his mind away from Watergate to
other things."

Mrs. Armstrong added ^{ed} that come what may - the
Watergate tragedy has already had at least one good effect.

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CAPITOL HILL

"We have now" - said she - "a more open White House."

CAPITOL HILL

The Senate refused today to delay construction - on that proposed Trans-Alaskan oil pipeline. The Senate rejected - by a vote of sixty-one to twenty-nine - a proposed eight month study of an alternate Canadian route. Senate approval of the pipeline as originally planned is now expected perhaps as early as next Tuesday.

BUENOS AIRES

At Buenos Aires - Argentina's President and Vice President of only seven weeks - officially resigned today; thereby clearing the way for new elections - expected to return to power former Argentina Dictator Juan Peron.

President Hector Campora and Vice President Solano Lima ~~took~~ ^{took} their joint action following a meeting with Peron. Campora later insisted ~~ed~~ ^{ed} ~~however~~ that he had not been pressured into resigning. "It was a decision" - ~~said he~~ ^{said he} - "that was born of my own sentiment - of all of a life in service of one man - in whom I believed, I believe, and will continue to believe."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "BACKGAMMON"

*And now it's time again for Lowell Thomas - with
another special report. Lowell...*

BACKGAMMON

Question: What is it that Homer, Nero and Bobby Riggs - all have in common? Answer: A love of backgammon - which is currently enjoying a rebirth of popularity - here at home and around the globe, so we hear.

The game of backgammon - dates back at least Four Thousand years. Just how far - nobody really knows; except that Sumerian artifacts recently uncovered in Southern Iraq - near the so-called "cradle of civilization" - include a richly inlaid backgammon board, along with dice - ditted in gold.

The lure of backgammon? The gambling possibilities of the game were heightened by an unknown U.S. inventor in the Twenties - who devised the so-called "doubling cube." Where Nero once lost as much as Fifteen Thousand a night - a modern Greek shipping magnate can and has lost as much as Half-a-Million at a single crack. The new backgammon craze - so we hear - is proving a magnet for big-time

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hustlers.

British expert Philip Martyn saying: "To be successful at this game - is a bit like being the fastest gun in the West; and he adds - there's always someone who'd like to take you on - and shoot you down." Anyone for Backgammon? Solong.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "BACKGAMMON"

Thank you, Lowell. A final story - in a moment.

MURUROA ATOLL

The weather in the South Pacific near Mururoa Atoll - was said to be calm and clear today. In other words, near-perfect - for the start of France's Nineteen-Seveny-Three nuclear test series. Observers said the first French detonation - could come at any time now; but most likely tomorrow - which is Bastille Day.

MOSCOW

In Moscow - Soviet Chairman Leonid Brezhnev met for two hours today - with Egyptian National Security Adviser Hafez Ismail, the man who is called by Anwar Sadat - "my Kissinger." His talks with Brezhnev - are said to have dealt mainly with Brezhnev's recent visit to the U.S.; and possible effects of that visit on future Mideast policy.

MITCHELL

There was a post-script today on John Mitchell's Watergate testimony. A reporter told how he asked Mitchell what he was going to do - when he finished testifying. The former Attorney General quoted as saying: "I'm going back to my hotel room - and get a drink." Adding: "A Scotch, preferably - but, as the old saying goes, there are no bad whiskeys; only some - are better than others."

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH

:50

If you're not superstitious, you may not have noticed
- but today is Friday the Thirteenth; appropos of which -
TRIS-KAI-DEK-A-PROBES
this next for triskaidekaphobes.

The National Geographic combing the country -
searching out ways and means of thwarting Friday the
Thirteenth, ^{has come} ~~coming~~ up with a whole raft of suggestions -
on how to prevent being hexed by Lady Luck. Such as: Tip
your hat to a lop-eared dog - don't stir your coffee with a
knife - wink at white horses - if you come across a hay
wagon, give it the right of way - don't eat bananas with
catsup ^(good advice any day) - don't pick up safety pins on the street - and don't
take a rake through the living room.

Reverse side - a reminder that Friday the Thirteenth
- is one of the best times of all to identify a future mate.
All you have to do - we are told - is hold a white egg in
your mouth - run outside - and the first name you hear,
that's it. This is OK for Lowell Thomas.