

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY RON NESSEN

Mrs. Betty Ford was examined at Bethesda Naval Hospital on Thursday morning (September 26, 1974) for a regular medical check-up. During the process of that examination, a small nodule was detected in her right breast. After further medical consultation, it was recommended that the nodule be surgically removed and a biopsy be performed to determine whether it was benign or malignant.

Mrs. Ford has entered Bethesda Naval Hospital for preparation for the surgery which will be performed Saturday.

Mrs. Ford entered the hospital at 5:55 p. m. She was accompanied by Mrs. Nancy Howe, Special Assistant to Mrs. Ford.

Dr. William Lukash informed the President Thursday (yesterday). Later yesterday the President and Mrs. Ford decided that Mrs. Ford would enter the hospital tonight and that the surgery would be performed tomorrow.

The purpose of the surgery is to determine through a biopsy whether the nodule is benign or malignant. Should it prove to be malignant, surgery would be performed to remove the right breast.

Surgery will be performed by Navy Captain William Fouty, Chief of Surgery at Bethesda. He will be assisted by J. Richard Thistlethwaite, civilian consultant to Bethesda Naval Hospital and Professor of Surgery at the George Washington University Medical School. Dr. Lukash will be in attendance. Mrs. Ford was in good spirits when she entered the hospital.

Further announcements regarding Mrs. Ford's condition will probably be made sometime Saturday afternoon.

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