

# State / National

Former first lady in intensive care after hip surgery

## Bess Truman, 96, develops pneumonia in left lung

**United Press International**  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Former first lady Bess Truman Tuesday contracted pneumonia in her left lung despite antibiotics to aid recovery from hip reconstruction surgery a week ago, her doctor said.

"Mrs. Truman remains in quite serious condition," said Dr. Wallace Graham, Truman's personal physician.

Doctors Tuesday noted the early stages of pneumonia in the lower left lobe of Truman's lung. Graham said the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics would therefore increase, and the former first lady would stay under constant monitor-

ing in intensive care at Research Medical Center.

Graham said his 96-year-old patient's temperature was gradually increasing during the morning, and that she was receiving respiratory therapy treatments.

"Mrs. Truman is getting adequate fluids, continually, with perfect physiological balance of electrolytes, vitamins and nutrition," Graham said.

Doctors were concerned about Truman's fluids because she was receiving diuretics to increase urinary output, reducing fluid collection in the body to reduce the chances of pneumonia.

"Her kidneys are tired and want to lie down on

the job," Graham said.

"We are keeping her just a bit dehydrated so as to not accumulate any fluid in the lungs."

The slowdown in Mrs. Truman's kidney output has caused what Graham referred to as an electrolyte imbalance in the blood stream.

"You've got to keep the electrolyte balance up to absolute normalcy or she gets sluggish. It can affect her mental outlook and metabolic system, which affects how she responds to treatment."

The morning discovery of pneumonia ended what doctors called a quiet night after Truman's first setback Monday from surgery a week ago. Monday Truman's blood pressure and potassium

level were fluctuating, but they returned to normal early Tuesday.

Late Monday doctors inserted a catheter near Truman's heart to administer medication directly into her bloodstream, a procedure Graham called dangerous.

"In a patient of this age, this technique is not without inherent dangers," Graham said, "but I'd rather not go into those dangers because we would frighten everybody in the United States."

"Anyone 96 years old should be considered in critical condition until moved from the intensive-care unit," he added.

Truman, wife of the late President Harry S.

Truman, has been in the hospital since Wednesday when she fell at home and broke her right hip. She underwent surgery Thursday to reconstruct her hip.

Until Monday, Truman had been "doing as well as can possibly be expected," Graham said. She was able to sit up in a chair Saturday, two days after surgery.

During a 45-minute operation surgeon Dr. Howard Ellfeldt removed the ball portion of Truman's splintered hip joint and replaced it with metal parts and acrylic glue. The bone was then reinserted into the socket.

## Judge orders reform of Texas prisons

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Assuming a federal judge's sweeping prison reform order is upheld on appeal, Texas has two options — spend billions to build new penal institutions or develop programs for managing inmates outside prisons.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice April 20 issued his final decree in a massive prison reform case that grew from the 1972 complaint of inmate David Ruiz, who is finishing his robbery sentence in a federal prison.

The outcry was immediate. TDC Director Jim Estelle, who himself has complained that Texas prisons are overcrowded, nonetheless rejects Justice's "one-man, one-cell" approach. "The time frames are impossible," he said.

Attorney General Mark White, a Democrat expected to challenge Republican Gov. William P. Clements Jr. in 1982, blasted Justice's call for "hotels" for inmates and a judge telling Texas where and how to build prisons. White said Tex-

ans have a right to lock up convicts if they want.

Clements, expected to seek reelection, publicly appealed to Republicans now in power in Washington for help in overturning the order. He received a courteous hearing but as yet no official help.

Dallas lawyer John Albach, federal court-appointed monitor of Oklahoma's compliance with a similar court order, dismissed the complaints of White and Clements as the "jockeying" of oppos-

ing politicians.

Albach said Estelle in the past has said changes need to be made, including creation of more community-based programs to handle lesser risk inmates outside prisons, but he criticized Estelle for not leading.

Albach, staff director of the Texas Legislature's Joint Committee on Prison Reform that in 1975 recommended some of the same changes mandated by Justice's order, said the Texas Legislature has heard reform ideas before.

"One of the things we put in our report was that unless changes were made by Texas they would be ordered by a federal judge," Albach said.

"I think most states start off being resistant. Oklahoma did in the beginning. Louisiana did in the beginning. Then they begin to see it as an opportunity to have the leverage from a federal court to make changes."

Indeed, the Texas Senate last week approved expanded work furloughs proposed by TDC and the Senate Finance Committee began shifting funds within TDC

to respond to Justice's directives pending appeal.

Albach said there have been good things about the Texas system. It is generally clean, orderly, relatively safe and well run from a business management standpoint. It has some good educational programs for inmates.

But Albach said TDC's reputation as a model among state prisons was partly myth: "I think it's fair to say TDC had the best public relations department of any system in the country."

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