

LONG BEACH, Calif. (UPI) — Pat Nixon is in serious Condition in a hospital bed today, ‘‘moderately to severely paralyzed’ by a stroke that left her unable to walk or talk normally as doctors labored to determine whether her condition will deteriorate.

The wife of the former president was on the critical-care floor at Long Beach Memorial Hospital — where her husband came close to death 21 months ago — but a neurologist said her life was in no immediate danger.

However, there was a possibility her condition could grow worse, he cautioned, and a chance she may never walk normally again.

Nixon, who rode in an ambulance with his wife and their daughter, Julie Eisenhower, to the hospital from the family home in San Clemente, did not speak to newsmen about his wife’s illness.

But Dr. Jack M. Mosier, the specialist called in by the Nixon family physician, said the former president was ‘‘being very nice and being very realistic,’ and told him ‘‘he wanted me to treat her like I would any other patient.”’

In Chicago, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan told reporters Nixon had told him by telephone that ‘‘her

condition is stabilized and that they are very hopeful, but they won’t really know — because of the nature of the stroke — for some 48 hours’’ the seriousness of her condition.

Nixon left the hospital late Thursday afternoon but Mrs. Eisenhower stayed as her mother ate a light meal and waited for the Nixons’ other daughter, Tricia Cox, to arrive from New York. She reached the hospital shortly after 8 p.m. and spent about ‘an hour with her mother. The two daughters left together and refused to speak with newsmen.

‘Mrs. Nixon is a very charming patient,’’ Mosier said, ‘a good intellect, bright, alert and is taking things very, very well and very cheerfully.”

The former first lady was stricken Wednesday afternoon while resting at her home and when she tried to stand up discovered her left leg would not support her.

She ‘‘suspected’’ the cause of her trouble but went to bed without telling anyone, Mosier said, explaining that

a stroke often impairs the victim's logic. She was ''visibly sick'' when she awakened Thursday morning.

Dr. John Lungren, the family physician, examined her briefly at the Nixon estate and ordered her rushed to the hospital 50 miles to the north. Mosier spoke to reporters after a lengthy examination by both physicians.

He said Mrs. Nixon had suffered a stroke in the right hemisphere of the brain, causing her to lose some control of the muscles on the left side of her body.

'We're hoping the stroke has stabilized,' he said. ''If the stroke doesn't get any worse, she's not going to die. If it gets worse, well, people do die from strokes,"

Mrs. Nixon probably will be able to walk unsupported if her stroke does not worsen and she recovers properly, Mosier said.

He said she should be hospitalized about 10 days for observation and tests to determine the cause of the stroke — possibly high blood pressure or a blood clot in the artery that carries blood from the heart to the brain.