

Betty Ford recuperating

WASHINGTON (UPI) — First Lady Betty Ford is "two or three days ahead" of the recovery schedule set by her doctors and is doing "very, very well," a smiling President told some White House visitors yesterday.

He discussed his wife's illness briefly with May Wallace, Bess Truman's sister-in-law, who was with a group invited to the Cabinet Room to view a portrait of Harry S. Truman which Ford had ordered placed opposite a picture of Abraham Lincoln. Wallace, the widow of Bess Truman's brother, told Ford, "We have you and your wife in our prayers," and Ford replied: "She's doing very well. She's two or three days ahead of what the doctors said would be the progress."

Ford had more comments about his wife's condition while photographers were taking pictures of the first meeting of his labor-management advisory committee. "She's sleeping well, she's eating well," Ford told AFL-CIO President George Meany, who was seated on his right at the Cabinet table.

"It's amazing what they do," the President added, noting that his wife was walking frequently just five days after her operation. Her temperature had been as high as 101 degrees but is normal now, he said.

Dr. William Fouly, the First Lady's surgeon, also said in a medical bulletin

yesterday that Mrs. Ford was in "excellent spirits" after "a most restful night." He said she slept late in the presidential suite at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

She "has not regained her full strength, but I would describe her post-operative course to date as uncomplicated and her present condition as excellent," Fouly added.

The hospital said the twice-daily reports now will be reduced to one a day "in light of Mrs. Ford's excellent recuperation."

Ford visited her Wednesday night and reported that she had felt well enough to talk to their three sons — Mike in Boston, and Jack and Steve in Utah.

The President told The Truman group that his wife had received "literally thousands" of good wishes from all over the country.

A group of congressional wives is organizing a volunteer operation to help Mrs. Ford answer the mail, flowers, telegrams and other expressions of good will which have poured in since the announcement that the First Lady faced cancer surgery.

One of the most meaningful was a note from Alice Roosevelt Longworth, who has had two mastectomies, and wrote "a line, to wish you well from one who a number of years ago had the same experience you had." Mrs. Longworth is 90.

Nobel prize for literature presented to 2 Swedes

STOCKHOLM (UPI) — Swedish authors Eyvind Johnson and Harry Martinson, relatively unknown outside their country, were named yesterday to share the 1974 Nobel prize for literature and the \$123,000 it carries.

Some of Sweden's younger literary figures immediately attacked the choice on grounds the prize winners had won little international acclaim. One young author said their selection smacked of corruption within the prize-awarding Swedish Academy of Letters.

Sources close to the academy had leaked the news three days ago. They said the choice was made not to upstage exiled Russian writer Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn, scheduled to pick up his 1970 award when the prizes are formally presented by King Carl Gustaf Dec. 10.

Solzhenitsyn, unable to receive his prize at that time because he was still in the Soviet Union, is expected to make one of his rare public speeches at the December ceremonies this year.

The 18-member academy cited Johnson, 74, for "narrative art, farseeing in lands and ages, in the service of freedom." The citation of 70-year-old Martinson was for

"writings that catch the dewdrops and reflect the cosmos."

Both are members of the academy. It was the first time in 23 years that a Swede had won the literature prize. The last was Per Lagerkvist in 1951.

Sven Delblanc, one of Sweden's leading younger authors, said "there exists no strong international opinion advocating these authors. The choice reflects lack of judgment by the Academy."

"And lack of judgment in a serious context like this, can only too easily be interpreted as corruption through camaraderie," Delblanc added. "Mutual admiration is one thing, but this has a smell

of embezzlement."

"Of course, this is a happy occasion," said Martinson at an afternoon news conference. "But all the critical comments from authors and journalists have added a bitter taste to it."

Johnson, who is writing a new book at present, agreed but added that "there can never be just one author that is the world's best."

Only three of Johnson's 44 books have been translated into English and his best-known work in that language is the novel "Return to Ithaca."

Martinson, a former sailor who went to sea at the age of 14, has had only four books translated into English. The

best-known are "The Road," and "Aniara," later made into a Swedish opera.

Speculation as to who would get this year's prize originally focused on British author Graham Greene, American Saul Bellow, V.S. Naipaul of Trinidad, and the late Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg.

Town senator sought

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Applicants will be asked if they are informed on the USG insurance scandals and if they have attended the USG Senate meetings on the matter.

Sweitzer said he "will not ask questions concerning their stand on the impeachment issue."

Interviews will be held at the OTIS office in 20 HUB and the decision will be announced Sunday.

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