

2 Key Moves Planned In Ford Staff Shifts

By Lou Cannon
Washington Post Staff Writer

The White House will make two key moves in its continuing staff shakeup by naming replacements for political adviser Dean Burch and chief legislative liaison William E. Timmons, informed sources said yesterday.

Max L. Friedersdorf, the present liaison to the House of Representatives, will take over Timmons' job. John T. Calkins, staff director for the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, is scheduled to acquire Burch's duties.

Calkins will become part of a reorganized White House staff headed by Robert T. Hartmann one of President Ford's closest aides. White House sources said that while Calkins will not have the "conselor" title given to Burch, he will perform the same duties as chief political consultant.

Gwen Anderson, the White House liaison to the Republican Party, will stay on as Calkins' deputy, these sources indicated.

Friedersdorf, 45, is a Nixon holdover who has served as House liaison since June 5, 1973, and before that was a special assistant to Nixon with substantially the same duties. He is considered popular with House members, some of whom urged that he not be removed in any general replacement of Nixon appointees.

Calkins, 49, is a party-oriented moderate who worked for 12 years as chief aide to Rep. Howard W. Robison (R-N.Y.) before becoming staff director of the GOP congressional campaign committee in 1970. He has a close relationship with several of the GOP congressmen whom Mr. Ford knew best during his long service in the House and reportedly was the President's personal choice for the job.

The political consultant job in the White House is an extremely sensitive one that has become involved in the struggle for supremacy between Donald Rumsfeld, the President's chief of staff, and Hartmann, his longtime assistant in the House. The definition of the job also has been of serious concern to Republican Party officials, some of whom have urged that it be kept at counselor-level as a symbol of its importance.

However, President Ford has expressed his determination to reduce the number of counselors and special assist-



JOHN T. CALKINS
to succeed Burch

ants in the White House.

Republican officials therefore have been assured that while the title of the job will be officially downgraded Calkins will continue to perform substantially the role played by Burch in the last months of the Nixon White House and the first four months of the Ford administration. However, he presumably will be reporting to the President through Hartmann most of the time.

The President also has attempted to allay fears of Republican officials, including National Committee Chairman Mary Louise Smith, by assuring them that they will have personal access to the White House.

This assurance and the prospective appointment of Calkins continues a pattern in the Ford administration that is basically the opposite of his predecessor.

Nixon basically was distrustful of Republican officials and set up his own independent staff organization in the White House, culminating in the creation of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

For most of the Nixon administration the President em-

ployed no one in the White House who was on close terms with GOP leaders, preferring instead to rely on the counsel of John N. Mitchell and H.R. Haldeman. It was only in the last embattled months of his presidency that Nixon turned to experienced politicians such as Burch for consultation.

Burch recently resigned, effective Dec. 31, to go into private law practice. Timmons is expected to leave soon.

Since becoming President, Mr. Ford has followed a political course of closely consulting with the Republican Party. Unlike Nixon, he accepted most requests to campaign for GOP candidates, even in races that Republican nominees seemed to have little chance of winning.

Mr. Ford also has relied heavily on former congressmen in general and on former Republican congressmen in particular. Rumsfeld is a former Republican congressman from Illinois. John O. Marsh, another top adviser, is a former conservative Democratic congressman from Virginia.

The President is close to such present congress members as Senate Minority Whip Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.) and House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.). His unofficial advisers include former Republican congressmen Melvin R. Laird and John Byrnes.

Friedersdorf also has experience on Capitol Hill. From 1961 until 1970 he served as administrative assistant to Rep. Richard L. Roudebush (R-Ind.), who was narrowly defeated in a 1970 try for the Senate.

Before working for Roudebush, Friedersdorf was a reporter with the Louisville Times, the Indianapolis News and the Chicago Daily News.

Th