

# Ford 'Confident' Despite the Poll

Washington

President Ford expressed confidence yesterday that he will win the Republican nomination and a full term in the White House despite a Gallup public opinion poll that shows him behind GOP challenger

Ronald Reagan.

A Reagan strategist said he is delighted — and hopes the former California governor will do as well when the 1976 voting starts in little more than two months.

Mr. Ford's campaign

manager, Howard Callaway, said the spurt in Reagan's rating was a temporary gain produced by the publicity that accompanied his formal announcement of presidential candidacy.

Reagan became a de-

clared candidate on November 20 — nearly five months after his campaign committee opened shop and began the effort to get him the GOP presidential nomination.

Mr. Ford's reaction was  
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## FORD 'CONFIDENT'

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relayed by Deputy White House Press Secretary William Greener. "In any campaign, there are ups and downs in the polls," Greener said. "The only poll that counts is the one on election day."

"As the President has said many times, he will continue to deal with the nation's problems and by doing his job he will win both the nomination and the election," Greener said. He said the statement reflected the President's views.

Callaway said that "the poll obviously reflects the publicity" that surrounded Reagan's televised announcement of candidacy.

"As soon as voters find out the record behind his rhetoric, and are able to compare it with the President's solid accomplishments in office, the results will be much different," he said. "We are confident this will happen before the first primary election February 24 in New Hampshire."

Lyn Nofziger, a Reagan adviser and spokesman, said "We're always pleased when a poll shows he's doing well." But Nofziger noted that the voting that counts is still weeks away.

"It's a long way until February 24, and those other primary dates," he said. "We'll be very happy if we do as well in those polls as we're doing in this one."

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