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Strategy For Ford's 1976 Bid

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A group of seven top Republicans, meeting at President Ford's request, agreed Wednesday that a formal organization should be created within the next few weeks to map Mr. Ford's bid for the 1976 GOP nomination.

"The purpose of the meeting was not whether he is going to but how he is going to run," Dean Burch, a former Republican national chairman and White House political adviser, told reporters.

Burch said Mr. Ford asked him to get the group together.

Burch, a conservative, said he considers Mr. Ford "the only logical nominee for the Republican party" and downgraded the danger that dissident party conservatives would desert the President, possibly to back former Governor Ronald Reagan of California.

Burch was designated to speak for the group, whose other members stood nearby while he briefed the press.

Others present included former White House aides Melvin Laird and Bryce N. Harlow; former Governor William W. Scranton of Pennsylvania; former GOP National Committeeman Richard L. Herman of Nebraska; New York attorney Robert R. Douglass, a long-time close associate of Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller and Leon Parma, a San Diego banker who is a close friend of the President.

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