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# Is a worried Ford preparing to blitz Reagan?

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President Ford seems bent on blitzing Ronald Reagan even before the former governor confirms he's a candidate for President.

Not so, White House aides insist. At Ford's vacation retreat in Vail, Colo., chief of staff Donald Rumsfeld said the President merely likes to move around and meet people.

Maybe so, but a Reagan Republican replied that Ford people are paranoid about California.

Reasons:

- Almost five weeks ago, Ford's backers formed a 44-member California campaign committee, including State GOP Chairman Paul Haerle and other longtime Reagan supporters.
- The other day Ford accepted two invitations to speak in California next month; other forays into Reagan's home state may be in the works.

On Sept. 5, Ford will become the first President ever to address a joint session of the California Legislature. Earlier that day, Ford will speak at a breakfast meeting of business, farm and government leaders, held yearly in conjunction with the State Fair.

Gov. Brown — who again Friday denied any personal interest in the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination — said he has invited President Ford to "stop by; there are a lot of things we could discuss."

Ford may return to California to dedicate the Stanford University Law School on Sept. 21. He also may fly into San Francisco to address the AFL-CIO national convention opening Oct. 2.

In all, the President may visit at least 11 states in the next four or five weeks. This would bring to 36 the number Ford has visited since moving into the White House just a year ago.

"Ronald Reagan, I know him and I like him," Rumsfeld said in a Colorado interview. "All along the President has taken his word at face value. I really believe he hasn't made up his mind yet whether to run."

However, the Chicago Tribune quoted another source close to the President as saying:

"The President thinks that Reagan is extremely articulate and a campaigner with a proven record in government. Naturally he considers that Reagan would be an adversary worthy of some note. The President would not just brush him off."

Reagan's unofficial campaign backers, meanwhile, have hired a professional firm to mail the first of a million appeals for funds.