

Reinecke Sees Ford As a 1976 Contender

Sacramento

Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke said last night he would not be surprised to see "a popularity contest" between Ford and Reagan for the 1976 Republican nomination for President.

Reinecke, who said he and Ford were close friends when they served together as Congressmen, said the nominee "has always had aspirations for whatever opportunity came along."

Former presidential advis-

er Robert Finch said he was "absolutely delighted" with the choice, adding that he took himself out of the running for the nomination "at the outset."

Gordon C. Luce, chairman of the State Republican Party said that in Ford the President "has chosen a strong man of proven ability. . . . I am sure that in his judgement Gerald Ford will best serve the country at this important time in history."

Our Correspondent