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# The Likely Successor to Gerald Ford

Washington **SF Chronicle**

Representative John J. Rhodes (Rep-Ariz.) was given a clear road yesterday to become House Republican leader, if Gerald R. Ford becomes vice president, when his only remaining opponent, Representative Leslie Arends (Rep-Ill.) withdrew.

Ford will not resign his leadership post until he is confirmed as vice president by Congress, an action that may not come until late November. The election of Rhodes would follow the Ford confirmation.

Rhodes, a conservative Republican, now is expected to be the unanimous choice of the 192 GOP House members for the post.

Arends, who has served in the No. 2 House GOP leadership post of party whip for 20 years, withdrew as a candidate for leader because, he said:

"Now more than ever we



JOHN J. RHODES  
Arizona Republican

need unity, not division, in the Republican ranks and in the Republican leadership in Congress."

The 63-year-old Rhodes, serving his 11th consecutive term in Congress, is now chairman of the House GOP policy committee.

Representative John Anderson (Rep-Ill.), a moderate Republican and third ranking in the leadership ladder behind Arends as chairman of the House GOP conference, withdrew last week from the race.

United Press