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Wife's Influence On Ford

New York

President Ford would not seek re-election in 1976 if his wife, now recovering from breast cancer surgery, asked him to drop out of the race, Newsweek magazine has quoted presidential advisers as saying.

"If she says the word, Ford will not run for re-election in 1976," according to an unnamed "close friend and adviser," Newsweek reported yesterday.

Another close friend told the magazine, "From here on, he will be much more susceptible to Betty's needs."

A third source, identified as a friend but not named, was quoted by the magazine as saying, "He would put her physical and mental well-being above the presidency. He never really expected to be President, so it would not be like he was being cheated out of a life long ambition."

Newsweek also quoted unidentified aides as saying Mr. Ford has become disenchanted with being President.

"He was affected by the newness and the challenge" at first, the magazine quoted a presidential adviser as saying, "but things have changed since the Nixon pardon. The job just doesn't look all that good to him any more."

United Press