

FORD NOMINEE TELLS OF ROLE IN '72 RACE

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WASHINGTON, March 10 (AP)—Calvin J. Collier, President Ford's choice to head the Federal Trade Commission, acknowledged today that he had been a contact man in the Commerce Department for "Operation Responsiveness" run by aides to former President Richard M. Nixon.

But Mr. Collier told a Senate confirmation hearing his role in that Watergate-related program was a minor one.

"Operation Responsiveness" was established by former White House aides to make the Federal bureaucracy more responsive to Mr. Nixon's 1972 reelection efforts.

Mr. Collier, 34 years old, an official in the Office of Management and Budget, served as a special assistant in the Commerce Department from 1969 through 1972.

Senator Frank E. Moss, Democrat of Utah, who was chairman at the confirmation hearing, noted that Mr. Collier's name had cropped up in the Senate Watergate committee's investigation as the "contact man" in the Commerce Department for the responsiveness program.

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