

## EX-NIXON AID NAMED AS FORD STRATEGIST

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WASHINGTON, July 7—William E. Timmons, who twice directed strategy at Republican National Conventions for Richard M. Nixon, was named Wednesday to be the director of convention operations for President Ford.

Rogers C. B. Morton, the Ford campaign chairman, said in announcing the appointment that Mr. Timmons's "experience and judgment will give us invaluable assistance" in the contest with Ronald Reagan for the Presidential nomination.

The closeness and severity of the rivalry were reflected in the choice of Mr. Timmons for such a prominent role in the final phase of the nominating contest. President Ford has sought to mute his ties to his predecessor and, even said last April, that he no longer used

Mr. Nixon's name in public because the nation was better off not being reminded of Watergate.

In an interview, Mr. Timmons said he "assumed" the Ford organization had considered and dismissed, as he had, any likelihood that his previous efforts in behalf of Mr. Nixon would be held against him.

He predicted that Mr. Ford would win the nomination and that previously uncommitted convention delegates would begin announcing pledges of support for him later this week.