

Nixon 'Picks' His '72 Foe

New York

President Nixon expects Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts to be his Democratic opponent in the 1972 presidential race, Time magazine reported yesterday.

Time said Mr. Nixon, in conversations with White House aides and political in-

timates, has discounted Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and Senator-elect Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, whom he regards as the only other top contenders for the 1972 Democratic nomination.

The magazine said Mr. Nixon describes Muskie as "the George Romney of the

Democratic party" — a reference to the former Michigan governor who fell by the wayside in the Republican primaries in 1968.

Time said Mr. Nixon does not consider it likely that Humphrey, his unsuccessful opponent in 1968, can rise again for a rematch.

"By the President's estimate, that leaves only Ken-

nedy, who, Nixon thinks, will receive and accept the nomination," the magazine said.

Time said the reaction of the White House staff to Mr. Nixon's views has been mixed, with some aides speculating that the President's "building Kennedy up at this stage could be a way of dividing the Democrats."

United Press