

On the eve of the Great Debates, President Ford is holding dress rehearsals at the White House while Jimmy Carter is resting and studying issues after offering his first detailed suggestion for reorganizing the government

Their first nationally televised debate, on economic and domestic issues, will be held in Philadelphia on Thursday night. Two more Ford-Carter debates, on other issues, will follow.

Presidential advisers say Ford is rehearsing with his aides acting as reporters who fire questions at him. Aides say the exercise is aimed at honing his responses to questions likely to be asked before the national television audience.

Ford aides say he is hoping to dispel doubts about his intelligence and ability. "He wants to appear informed, decisive and experienced while picturing Carter as the opposite," one aide said.

For his dress rehearsal, Ford planned to perform before videotape cameras that would allow him to replay and refine his responses.

Carter's aides said the Democratic nominee planned no special preparations for the debate other than to rest and read briefing books designed to keep him abreast of the issues.

Although Carter aides said the Democratic nominee planned no dress rehearsals before the debate, he does plan to visit the site of the debate to familiarize himself with the setting

before he actually arrives to face Ford on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, the sponsors of the debate, the League of Women Voters, denied the second debate, which is set for Oct. 4

will be in San Francisco's War Memorial

Veterans Building

The president of the board that operates the building had said the debate would be there. But a spokesman for the league said that while San Francisco is being considered along with other cities, the veterans building has been ruled out for technical reasons

Both Carter's running mate, Sen Walter Mondale, and Ford's running mate, Sen. Bob Dole, planned to campaign today.

As Carter relaxed at home in Plains,

Ga., his campaign organization issued the first details of what the Democratic nominee has promised would be an overhaul of the federal bureaucracy

In a statement, Carter said he would abolish four existing agencies that now deal with energy questions. replacing them with a Cabinet-level department. He said he would abolish the Federal Energy Administration, the Federal Power Commission, the Energy Research and Development Administra.

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