

A Favorable Reaction In Congress

Washington

Nelson A. Rockefeller's nomination to be vice president was widely applauded yesterday by both Democrats and Republicans in Congress, but ahead lies an intensive scrutiny of his family's vast international fortune.

Thus it was that even as congressional leaders were confidently predicting swift and easy confirmation, plans already were being laid for a full congressional probe into Rockefeller's political and personal life.

Just hours after his nomination was announced by President Ford at the White House, Rockefeller went to Capitol Hill to confer with Senator Howard Cannon of Nevada, chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, and Representative Peter Rodino of New Jersey, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the two committees that will conduct confirmation hearings.

There were rumbles of discontent, too, from a few liberals and conservatives on grounds other than Rockefeller's wealth and family

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involvement in international enterprises.

Senator Barry Goldwater, (Rep-Ariz.) expressed disappointment over the nomination, suggesting that Rockefeller is "not the one to put the party together."

Goldwater said that Rockefeller had "ducked out on at least two presidential races," an obvious reference to Rockefeller's coolness toward Goldwater's own bid for president in 1964 and Richard M. Nixon's successful race for president in 1968.

While saying that he could support Rockefeller's nomination as vice president, Goldwater expressed doubt that the nominee would be acceptable to the "rank and file Republicans" in the nation. He suggested that he be dropped from the Republican ticket in 1976.

Some Democratic liberals also protested the Rockefeller nomination on the ground that he had refused to intervene in the Attica state prison riots in 1971 that led to widespread bloodshed.

Cannon said that one of his committee's biggest problems will be to determine whether Rockefeller's financial holdings involve any conflict of interest.

Mr. Ford was confirmed only after an intensive in-

quiry into his political and social life by 400 FBI agents and 100 other government employees and congressional staff investigators.

If the investigation of Rockefeller is as extensive as that of Mr. Ford — and congressional sources say it will be—confirmation hearings probably will not begin until mid-September.

Both the Senate and House will begin a Labor Day recess this week. The Senate will return September 4; the House on September 11.

The news of Rockefeller's selection spread rapidly through congressional offices and hearing rooms yesterday and was greeted with general, though not unanimous approval.

Representative Carl Albert, Speaker of the House, asked if he could see any problems on confirmation, replied: "I don't know of any. I think that Governor Rockefeller will be confirmed."

In the Senate, Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, and Republican leader Hugh Scott also said they were pleased at the choice and they predicted speedy approval.

More surprisingly, many of the more conservative Republicans in both houses joined in the chorus of support, although many had vigorously opposed Rockefeller in his past bids for the

presidential nomination.

"I shall vote for his confirmation," said Senator Carl Curtis (Rep-Neb.), one of the most conservative members of the Senate.

Most Democratic liberals also applauded the nomination and indicated they could see no difficulty in his winning confirmation.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), who is considered by many as the front runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976, said that Mr. Ford had chosen "an outstanding American with a record of long and dedicated public service to New York and the nation."

But there were some discordant notes, too, as House members took to the floor just after noon to air their views.

Representative Otis G. Pike (Dem-N.Y.), noting that President Ford had told Congress just a week ago that inflation is the nation's greatest problem, said that the New York state budget, during the years Rockefeller was governor, increased by 300 per cent and the state's bonded indebtedness rose by 600 per cent.

"All I can say is if he could do this for the state of New York — you ain't seen nothing yet," Pike remarked.

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