

Two Don't Care for Rockefeller

The California Reaction

By George Murphy

Most California politicians reacted favorably yesterday to President Ford's nomination of Nelson Rockefeller as vice president, but two—at opposite ends of the political spectrum—opposed it.

Governor Ronald Reagan, California's two U.S. senators, and the Republican and Democratic gubernatorial nominees hailed Mr. Ford's selection.

But state Senator H. L. Richardson, the conservative Republican nominee for U.S. Senator, and Congressman Ronald Dellums, the liberal Oakland Democrat, found the choice unpalatable.

Richardson called the nomination "lousy."

He said, "I don't think the President could have picked somebody as far away from rank and file Republicans as Nelson Rockefeller.

"He reflects the Eastern liberal establishment and has far more in keeping with liberal Democrats than rank and file Republicans... the President threw a Rockefeller wrench into the Republican party ranks in California."

Dellums said in Washington the nomination "confirms this administration as a big business government rather than a government of

the people.

... It is unfortunate that President Ford missed a unique opportunity today to utilize his vice presidential nomination to step past party and ideological boundaries, and name a vice president who could assist in drawing the nation together."

Reagan, whose future in national politics became considerably dimmer with Rockefeller's nomination, praised the former New York governor.

"He is a fine citizen who can make an effective contribution to the leadership of our country," Reagan said.

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston, a Democrat, said of the nominee:

"His experience in international, national and state affairs will make him a capable vice president, if he is confirmed by the Senate and the House of Representatives, and I think would fully equip him to serve, if need be, as President."

Cranston said, however, he would reserve final judgment on his vote until after confirmation hearings and after Cranston has conferred with Republican leaders in California.

Senator John Tunney, also a Democrat, said Mr. Ford "has nominated a person of

great and varied experience in government who will, I am sure, be a strong right hand in this administration.

Republican gubernatorial nominee Houston Flournoy said Rockefeller "offered a unique combination of experience in foreign policy and in governing a large state for many years. Coupled with the President's... experience in Congress, the qualifications held by... Rockefeller assure the nation of the strongest possible leadership."

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Edmund G. Brown Jr. said: "The Republicans obviously now have a better team than with Nixon and Agnew.

State Democratic Chairman Congressman John Burton of San Francisco, said: "On the surface it would seem to be a good choice because of Rockefeller's interest in the problems of urban America. But I would await the outcome of... confirmation hearings... before determining my vote."

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Congressman Paul McCloskey (Rep-Palo Alto), one of only eight Congressmen who worked for Rockefeller's Presidential nomination at the 1968 convention (won by Mr. Nixon), said he was "of course, delighted."

Mayor Joseph Alioto said Rockefeller "can be counted upon to understand the problems of the cities, and is indeed, city-oriented himself. He understands state and local problems."

John F. Henning, executive secretary of the California Labor Federation, said "Congress must question Mr. Rockefeller closely on whether he is going to be a member of the Rockefeller banking family, or vice president of the United States."