

WXPost SEP 17 1974

Texas GOP Tries to Quiet Ford Critics

HOUSTON, Sept. 16 (AP) — A move by some Texas Republicans to repudiate President Ford's amnesty stand and his choice of Nelson A. Rockefeller as Vice President has been dealt a setback, a party leader said today.

A temporary platform committee agreed Sunday night to recommend to the Texas GOP Convention that it exclude all national issues from consideration, state Sen. O.H. (Ike) Harris said.

The day-long meeting is scheduled for Tuesday.

Some angry delegates charged Sunday that Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.) was trying to restrict the convention to state issues to head off the move.

The senator, titular head of the state's GOP, met twice with the convention's temporary platform committee on Sunday.

A committee member confirmed that at the first of the meetings, held behind closed doors, Tower urged them not to write resolutions on the Rockefeller nomination and President Ford's proposal for some form of amnesty to draft evaders and deserters.

Tower later urged the committee publicly to stick to state issues in writing resolutions.

The temporary committee, meeting in advance of the convention, is to write a report to a permanent platform committee, which will decide which resolutions reach the convention floor.

The Harris County delegation, the state's largest, plans to try to bring the two resolutions to the floor for a vote, said delegates from Houston, which is in Harris County.

"It takes just seven votes to bring up a Rockefeller resolution. Harris County has six votes and we're casting around to come up with a seventh," said a Houston delegate who asked not to be identified.

"If the two resolutions come up on the floor this convention would vote not to endorse Rockefeller — that's what they are scared of," the delegate added. "It underscores the importance of it that they sent John Tower down here."
