

ROCKEFELLER LINK TO CRITICAL BOOK ON RIVAL STUDIED

House Panel Opens Inquiry Into Derogatory Biography of Goldberg in 1970 Race

TIE TO WORK IS DENIED

Ex-Governor Says Brother Laurance Put In \$60,000 as a Business Venture

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 10—The House Judiciary Committee has begun a broad investigation into Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller's possible involvement with a derogatory biography of Arthur J. Goldberg published when Mr. Goldberg was his Democratic opponent for the New York governorship in 1970.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has indicated in a report to the committee that Mr. Rockefeller, through intermediaries, may have been involved in underwriting the work, "Arthur J. Goldberg, the Old and the New," by Victor Lasky.

Mr. Rockefeller said tonight that, unknown to him, his brother Laurance had invested \$60,000 in the book as a business venture.

Totally Opposed

"Had he only told me about it at the time, I would have been totally opposed to it and would have strongly advised against his participation in any form," Mr. Rockefeller said in a statement issued by Hugh Morrow, his news secretary, in response to an inquiry.

Mr. Goldberg, informed of Mr. Rockefeller's statement, said:

"I am shocked beyond measure that Governor Rockefeller and his brother would participate in such a dirty campaign trick. They owe me, my family and the American people a profound apology for financing a scandalous and libelous book on one who has served his country well. The explanation of Governor Rockefeller simply does not wash."

Mr. Goldberg, a former Supreme Court Justice and Cabinet officer, said that he had never read the book, but added that "my brother-in-law did read it and vomited."

This development, combined with questions concerning Nelson Rockefeller's gifts, loans and other fiscal undertakings, may delay consideration of his Vice-Presidential nomination until the next session of Con-

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gress, according to sources close to the investigation.

The book on Mr. Goldberg was published by Arlington House, a subsidiary of Starr Broadcasting Group, of which William F. Buckley Jr. is chairman. It was published as a paperback and sold for \$1.25.

A spokesman for Mr. Buckley said that Mr. Buckley was unaware of any involvement by Nelson Rockefeller in the publication of the book but would investigate the matter.

Mr. Lasky, reached by Telephone said:

"You know, I give you my word I never knew it. As I recall it, Arlington House wanted the book and I wrote it in about four weeks, and it's one of the greatest books nobody ever read."

Asked about \$60,000 he reportedly received, Mr. Lasky said:

"I never got \$60,000. My best recollection is I never got a nickel in royalties."

Mr. Lasky is a free-lance writer whose book, "John F. Kennedy: What's Behind the Image?" was distributed by Republicans during Mr. Kennedy's 1960 Presidential campaign against Richard M. Nixon.

Mr. Lasky's book accused Mr. Goldberg, among other things, of "a 'What Makes Sammy Run' drive."

"The fact is that Mr. Goldberg does not have the background and the experience to be a successful Governor at this critical time," Mr. Lasky wrote.

"Mr. Goldberg is always pounding his chest and emphasizing his concern for the people. The fact is, of course, that concern for others is not characteristic of a person who, like Mr. Goldberg, has kicked, scratched and thrust his way up the ladder to the positions of prominence which he has held.

"Such progress is the result of a 'What Makes Sammy Run' drive, and is the result of continued thought about oneself, one's career, and one's record—24 hours a day plus a lot of overtime."

"What Makes Sammy Run" was a best-selling novel by Budd Schulberg about an unscrupulous, hard-driving, opportunistic movie producer named Sammy Glick.

Mr. Morrow, asked about Mr. Rockefeller's possible involvement with the book, first replied that "Nelson Rockefeller had nothing to do with the book in any way."

Rockefeller Statement

An hour later, Mr. Morrow telephoned to say that he had learned there was more involved than he first knew. He telephoned again 10 minutes later with the following statement by Mr. Rockefeller:

"Jack Wells told me early in the 1970 campaign that Victor Lasky was working on a biography of Arthur Goldberg. I really didn't pay any attention, because I never felt that such books coming out during campaigns cut much ice one way or another.

"I never heard any more about it until the book was out and someone showed me a copy, which I never even

opened. Late this past summer, when the F.B.I. was interviewing me during the investigation in connection with my nomination for the Vice Presidency, they asked me about rumors to the effect that I had financed a book about Arthur Goldberg, and whether I had anything to do with its publication.

"I told them I had heard of it at the time, but knew nothing about its preparation or financing. Subsequently, the F.B.I. informed me through counsel that my brother Laurance had invested in the book.

"Evidently, what happened was that my brother had agreed to participate as an investor in underwriting a book that was expected to sell well. I am told that he made an investment of around \$60,000 in a company that had been set up to produce the book, and that Laurance heard nothing more about it until the book came out and was a total flop.

"Laurance found himself stuck with a net loss of around \$52,000. While this was a business loss, he did not take a tax deduction. Had he only told me about it at the time, I would have been totally opposed to it and would have strongly advised against his participation in any form."

Laurence Rockefeller released a statement through Mr. Morrow that said: "My brother's statement accurately reflects the facts and I have nothing to add to it."

Other Gifts Studied

Meanwhile, the House Judiciary Committee was known to be studying several other large gifts from Mr. Rockefeller to New York State officials. However, their names, or the size of the gifts, were not yet known.

Mr. Rockefeller received a request today for additional information, dating to 1957, from Representative Peter A. Rodino Jr., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. The request expands by 10 years the time span covered by tax information already submitted to both Congressional committees concerned with the Rockefeller nomination.

The House Judiciary Committee was also known to be interested in gifts of less than \$3,000, which are not required to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

Another rumored recipient of a loan or financial gift from Mr. Rockefeller was Thomas W. Braden, the newspaper columnist. Mr. Braden has been associated with Mr. Rockefeller in the past. He served as execu-

tive secretary of the Museum of Modern Art in 1949, when Mr. Rockefeller was president of the museum.

Mr. Braden, reached by telephone at his home here today, was asked whether he or his wife, Joan, had been lent or given any money by Mr. Rockefeller.

"My answer to that is that it's nobody's business," he said.

He was then asked about reports that Mr. Rockefeller had been involved in the acquisition of the Oceanside, Calif., newspaper of which Mr. Braden was editor and publisher from 1954 to 1968.

"Again," he said, "that's nobody's business."

Gift-Tax Returns

A spokesman for Mr. Rockefeller said that the committee's new request related specifically to gift-tax returns. The committee is believed to have asked for information about any loans, past and outstanding, that Mr. Rockefeller has made, including any available documentation, such as copies of the loan agreements showing what, if any, interest was paid.