

Goldberg Book Not Sold Commercially

By Stephen Isaacs

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No copies of the book that Laurance Rockefeller financed for his brother Nelson's 1970 gubernatorial campaign went to book stores, it was learned yesterday.

Instead, said one employee of the publisher, Arlington House, of New Rochelle, N.Y., almost all of the 100,000 copies printed were hastily sent to Republican County leaders throughout New York to distribute as campaign literature.

The few remaining books, said the employee, were sent to news organizations.

"I remember how our shipping department was doing nothing but sending these books out to Republican county chairmen for days," said the employee, who asked that his name be withheld.

The book project, he said, was "hush-hush. Nobody was supposed to know the Rockefellers were underwriting it. But it was obvious that nobody would subsidize a book like that at that time except the Rockefellers."



VICTOR LASKY

... "not scurrilous"

Rockefeller at the time was seeking his fourth term as New York governor, running against former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg.

The book, by Washington freelance writer Victor Lasky, was denounced Thursday by Goldberg as "shabby, dirty campaign trickery."

Rockefeller's office issued statements Thursday both for the Vice President-designate and for Laurance Rockefeller, a noted conservationist, saying that the governor had no hand in planning the book.

Nelson Rockefeller said his only advance knowledge of the book project came when New York lawyer Jack Wells casually mentioned it to him.

Wells is a good friend of Rockefeller. One of Wells' law partners, Fiorovante Perotta, has played major roles in New York campaigns of both Rockefeller and former President Nixon.

Wells is one of the "name" partners of the prestigious New York firm of Rogers & Wells, the other being former Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

Lasky said yesterday that Wells is his friend and personal attorney, and handled all arrangements on the book. He said that, when the manuscript was completed, two young lawyers from Wells' firm screened it for libel.

The Arlington House em-

ployee said that Lasky was paid a flat \$10,000 for writing the book. "It was a hack job — it took four, five, six weeks at the outside," he said. "It wasn't even edited, it was just checked for spelling, and special arrangements were made with the printer to get it through very quickly."

Arlington House, said the employee, "received \$50,000 from Literary Properties," a corporation Wells put together to finance the book. "The printing bill was \$20,000, and then you have overhead and shipping and so forth, but Arlington did it for the money. They must've made \$27,000 or so out of it."

Lasky said he received \$5,000 before writing the book and the other \$5,000 after turning it in, and said he and his wife completed the research in two weeks.

He readily acknowledges that the book was a campaign attack on Goldberg. "Here was this man," he said. "New Yorkers knew about this great man. I wanted to present the other side. I make no bones about it."

"I signed that book," said Lasky, "it is not a scurrilous piece."

Asked about the innuendo that fills many pages, Lasky said that, for a campaign book, it was relatively fair and "if you want to analyze The Washington Post each day, I can do that, too."

Lasky was asked, as an example, why he pointed out that, as an OSS major in World War II, Goldberg "saw no combat."

The sentence, not untypical for the book, read as follows: "Though he saw no combat, Major Goldberg did have a few interesting adventures, as he later told interviewers."

Lasky said: "I served in the OSS, too, and I didn't see any combat either. What's wrong with that?"

Repeatedly, the book snipes at Goldberg—as Lasky put it yesterday—as a Sammy Glick character, using such words as "egocentric," "loquacious," "ostentatious," to describe him.

The book goes into a description of the Black Panthers and a Goldberg defense of the group, and then says: "... the Black Panthers take a militantly pro-Arab line in condemning the 'kosher Zionists' of Israel. Then how come a nice Jewish boy like Arthur Goldberg got mixed up with such people?"

Lasky's book recounts Goldberg's role in a controversial case involving charges of anti-Semitism against a student center director at New York University. Goldberg, asked by NYU to review the case, recommended that the man, John Hatchett, be retained in his job.

One in every four New York voters is Jewish. Lasky's book said:

"The irony of the Hatchett and Black Panther affairs was that Mr. Goldberg had become president of the American Jewish Committee, which for decades had been working to combat the scourge of anti-Semitism."

The book—copies of which are somewhat rare by now—traced each phase of Goldberg's life and career, finding elements in each to question.

Lasky maintained yesterday that he thinks his book was "a pretty good interpretation of Arthur Goldberg." Rockefeller said on Thursday that, once the book was out, "I never even opened" it.