

Trouble Seen for Rocky

Goldberg Book Raises Doubts In Congress

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Nelson A. Rockefeller's nomination as Vice President faces tougher going in Congress in the wake of disclosure that his brother paid for a derogatory biography of a 1970 political opponent, several congressmen said yesterday.

"I think it may be in some serious trouble," Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio) said on "Meet the Press" (NBC-WRC). Hays said the nomination could even go over to the next Congress in 1975, which would not improve Rockefeller's chances of confirmation.

Rockefeller's nomination is "in jeopardy," Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said on another interview program, "Issues and Answers" (ABC-WMAL).

Rockefeller has consistently denied that he knew his brother, Laurance, had put up \$60,000 to finance publication of "Arthur J. Goldberg, the Old and the New" during the 1970 New York gubernatorial election in which Goldberg unsuccessfully opposed Nelson Rockefeller.

But on Saturday he admitted knowing early in the campaign that author Victor Lasky was working on the book. He apologized to Goldberg by telephone and telegram for not stopping the project immediately, calling it "utterly alien to and incompatible with the standards I have always tried to observe in my political life."

Rockefeller campaign aides distributed some 100,000 copies of the book, which was never sold commercially.

Goldberg, a former associate justice of the Supreme Court, responded by saying it was up to Congress to decide whether Rockefeller's conduct was "compatible with his being confirmed Vice President."

Disclosure last week of the biography's funding came on top of revelations of about \$2 million in gifts Rockefeller made to present and former associates, including public officials.

Under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, Rockefeller's nomination to the vice presidency by President Ford must be confirmed by the House and Senate.

Confirmation had appeared certain before and is still regarded as likely. But the recent disclosures have prompted calls for thorough investigations by the Senate Rules Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, which are responsible for holding hearings on the nomination.

Rockefeller insisted yesterday that he had now told all there was to tell about the gifts.

"I have responded totally to the requests of both committee chairmen," he told reporters at his Pocantico Hills estate in New York.

Associated Press writer Stanley Johnson reported that Rockefeller seemed especially bitter about a report involving former New York state official L. Judson Morhouse.

The report, broadcast by NBC, said "Rockefeller interests" had arranged for a \$50,000 loan to Morhouse, who bought stock with the money and made a profit of over \$100,000.

"I had no knowledge of this,"

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and was not involved in this," Johnson quoted Rockefeller as saying.

Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen (D-Tex.), who appeared with Hays on "Meet the Press," said the Rockefeller gifts to public officials raised the possibility of conflict of interest.

"I have some questions concerning the large amounts to some of these public officials," Bentsen said. And as for the Goldberg book's funding, he said, "Obviously I don't agree with that."

Bentsen and Hays are chairmen of the Democratic campaign committees of the Senate and the House.

House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.), said the Rockefeller nomination was "not in any permanent

jeopardy," but the questions raised were worth investigating. It is up to the committees and to the House and Senate themselves, he said, to judge if the Goldberg book is "a disabling factor."

Rhodes appeared with Proxmire, vice chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, on "Issues and Answers."

Chairman Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.) of the Senate Rules Committee told United Press International in an interview that his committee "in all probability" will recall Rockefeller to testify about the book and his gifts.

He said a vote on the nomination might be delayed until late December by the new developments.

In New York, meanwhile, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) said during several weekend news conferences that he had not made up his mind whether to return a \$15,000 campaign contribution from Rockefeller. He said he would feel "perfectly free" to vote against Rockefeller's confirmation if it proved necessary.

Javits' opponent, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, has made the contribution a major issue.