

Goldwater Changes Rockefeller Stance

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona, a leader of conservative Republicans, has told President Ford that he no longer feels bound by his initial decision to support the confirmation of Nelson A. Rockefeller as Vice President.

Goldwater, campaigning for re-election, told an audience at Arizona State University that he was bothered by recent disclosures about how Rockefeller uses his wealth, including gifts to political associates and the financing of a campaign biography of his 1970 gubernatorial opponent in New York.

Goldwater told a questioner: "I've had to tell President Ford I'm not hidebound in my statement I could support Rockefeller because of things coming out in the hearings."

"The whole subject is not whether he has millions of dollars—that doesn't bother me," Goldwater told a United Press International reporter after the meeting. "It's whether or not he used these millions of dollars to buy power. I think that's wrong."

Goldwater's Washington office cautioned that the senator has not made up his mind on the Rockefeller nomination. But reportedly he has told colleagues that he intends to announce his opposition after election recess.

The only senator to have announced opposition so far is another conservative Republican, William L. Scott of Virginia.

Another Republican, Sen. Bob Packwood of Oregon, told an audience in Eugene, where he was campaigning for re-election, that he, too, is bothered by the recent disclosures. Citing the Rockefeller-financed book on election opponent Arthur Goldberg, Packwood said he had "grave reservations about voting to confirm Nelson Rockefeller if the reports I hear about him are true."

Conservative Republican Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina wrote Senate Rules Chairman Howard W. Cannon yesterday asking him to call the nominee's brother, David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, to the confirmation hearings scheduled to resume Nov. 13.

Helms said David Rockefeller should be asked about the secret agreement he and his brother negotiated in 1968 to allow the merger of the Triborough Bridge Authority in New York with the new Metropolitan Transportation Authority.