

ROCKEFELLER GIVES VIEW ON HIS ROLE

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Sees 'Tempest in a Teapot'
Over Callaway Remarks—
Supports Ford Delay
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WASHINGTON, July 31—It was Vice President Rockefeller's turn today to talk to news reporters about suggestions that he is too old and too liberal for the 1976 Republican ticket, and he termed the whole discussion "a tempest in a teapot."

Under intense questioning at a breakfast news conference, Mr. Rockefeller responded good-naturedly to questions about statements recently made by Howard H. Callaway, manager of President Ford's campaign committee.

On various occasions, Mr. Callaway has said that he was soliciting delegates only for President Ford, that the President might seek "a younger man" than Mr. Rockefeller, who is now 67 years old, as his 1976 running mate, and that Mr. Rockefeller was the President's "No. 1 problem" in obtaining the Republican Presidential nomination.

The interpretation Mr. Rockefeller put on those remarks was that Mr. Callaway, a conservative Georgian, was "reporting what other people felt." The Vice President suggested that the campaign manager, under questioning from reporters, had got "a little confused" between his opinion and the opinions of others.

He and Mr. Callaway, the Vice President said, actually shared the same position on the Vice-Presidential nomination—that is, "until the President is nominated, he shouldn't make up his mind on who should be his running mate."

Mr. Rockefeller's early morning meeting with reporters started out on a very low key, and then Mr. Callaway's name was mentioned. "Aaaah!" the Vice President said, as if anticipating the reporters' questions.

Mr. Rockefeller began by expressing his esteem for Mr. Callaway, until recently Secretary of the Army, and said his selection as Mr. Ford's campaign manager was "excellent." He said Mr. Callaway was well regarded in the South and that that was important in the search for convention delegates to support President Ford's nomination.

Ford 'Felt Badly'

At the same time, Mr. Rockefeller referred to Mr. Callaway as the "pre-campaign manager," implying that someone else would conduct the President's actual election campaign. When asked about his use of the term "pre-campaign," Rockefeller said, "I wanted to say what I thought was his assignment."

Mr. Rockefeller disclosed that he had not had time to raise with President Ford the question of Mr. Callaway's statements because the President himself had raised it. He said the President "felt badly because he thought I'd feel badly."

Mr. Rockefeller rejected the suggestion that Mr. Callaway might have been inspired by the White House in his remarks about the Vice Presidency.

The Vice President also said he had telephoned Ronald Reagan, former Governor of California, to express thanks for Mr. Reagan's statement that Mr. Rockefeller had received "shoddy" treatment.

Mr. Reagan is regarded as a potential challenger for both the Presidential and Vice-Presidential nomination of the Republican party, but Mr. Rockefeller did not rate Mr. Reagan's prospects very high.

Describing himself as "utterly relaxed" and "in a happy mood," the Vice President said he would not want to become Secretary of State, if Henry A. Kissinger should leave the job, "because I'm very interested in what I am doing now."

'Loophole' in Election Law

WASHINGTON, July 31 (UPI)—There is no limit on the amount Vice President Rockefeller or anyone else running for his job can spend seeking nomination.

Federal officials described the situation today as a "loophole" in the new Federal election law.

President Ford and his potential Democratic opponents are limited to \$10-million in the amount they can spend to get the nomination, but there is no limit on Vice President.

Rockefeller spokesmen were quick to say that the Vice President, one of the world's richest men, was not going to advantage of the situation. A press spokesman, John Mulliken, said that Mr. Rockefeller did not plan to spend any money on personal political activities before next summer's Republican convention.

A spokesman for the Federal Election Commission said cautiously: "You're right, there is no mention of Vice President in the law. This is something we might have to rule on."

While there is no limit on the amount a vice-presidential candidate can spend seeking nomination, there is a limit on how much Mr. Rockefeller or anyone else could spend of his own money. The law limits a candidate and his family to a contribution totaling \$50,000 for a campaign for President or Vice President.