

Probe of Rocky And a Biography

Washington

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 Goldberg was Rockefeller's Democratic opponent for the New York governorship in 1970.

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

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

"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," Rockefeller said in a statement issued by Hugh Morrow, his news secretary.

Goldberg, informed of Rockefeller's statement, said: "I am shocked beyond measure that Geuerrcr Eeckefeller 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 does not wash."

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 Congress, according to sources close to the investigation.

The book on 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 Buckley said that Buckley was unaware of any involvement by Nelson Rockefeller in the publication of the book but would investigate the matter.

Lasky, reached by telephone, said that "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 the \$60,000 figure, he said, "I never got \$60,000. My best recollection is I never got a nickel in royalties."

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

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