

Rockefeller Apologizes To Goldberg

By Stanley Johnson

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (AP) — Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller took full responsibility today for publication of a book he admitted was derogatory to former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, his opponent for the New York governorship in 1970.

The book, written by columnist Victor Lasky, appeared during the campaign, but it was learned only this week that its publication had been financed by the then-governor's brother, Laurance Rockefeller.

Nelson Rockefeller said in a statement Thursday that he had been unaware of this and would have opposed it.

However, in a telephone conversation with Goldberg today, Rockefeller said "it is quite clear that when the project was brought to my attention, I should have immediately taken steps to see to it that it was stopped as utterly alien to and incompatible with the standards I have always tried to observe in my political life.

"I take full responsibility for the whole regrettable episode." The Vice President-designate sent a copy of his apology by telegram to Goldberg, but declined to say what the reaction of his 1970 opponent had been.

From sources close to the situation, however, it was learned that Goldberg was somewhat mollified by Rockefeller's apology.

In a statement released later in Washington, Goldberg said:

"The Senate and House committees and ultimately both bodies of Congress are

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the proper agencies to determine whether Gov. Rockefeller's now-admitted misconduct and its attempted cover-up are compatible with his being confirmed as Vice President.

"I am content to leave this overriding question in their hands since this is their constitutional responsibility to the people of our country," Goldberg said.

Rockefeller began his conversation by telling Goldberg, "I watched you on TV last night and I totally understand and sympathize with your indignation. You hereby have my sincere and unqualified apology for a book derogatory to you that was published during our 1970 campaign for governor."

Goldberg had called the book, "Arthur J. Goldberg, the Old and the New", a "phony book." On Friday, he asked Rep. Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to hold formal hearings into the circumstances surrounding its publication.

Laurance Rockefeller put up \$60,000 for publication of the book and 100,000 copies of it were supplied to the Rockefeller campaign.

A spokesman confirmed today that John Wells, a longtime political associate of the governor, had arranged publication by Arlington House, a conservative publishing house with headquarters in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Arlington House is owned by the Starr Broadcasting Group of which columnist William F. Buckley Jr., is chairman.

Rockefeller acknowledged today, although not in his conversation with Goldberg, that

FOLD AD



ARTHUR GOLDBERG

"Jack Wells told me early in the 1970 campaign that Victor Lasky was working on a biography of Arthur Goldberg.

"I didn't pay the matter any attention because I've always felt such a book coming out during a campaign doesn't cut any ice."

A spokesman explained that Rockefeller meant only that his attention had been drawn to the fact that the book was being written and not to its contents.

He said this was the point of Rockefeller's statement that "it is quite clear that when the project was brought to my attention I should have immediately taken steps."

Etna Eruption Eases

Agence France-Presse

CATANIA, Sicily, Oct. 12—Mount Etna's eruption through a fissure on its north-east side, which began two days ago, eased today.