

Sen. Cannon Probes a Rocky Gift



SENATOR CANNON
He spoke in S.F.

Senator Howard W. Cannon said here yesterday that he is still trying to find out whether vice president designate Nelson Rockefeller's \$86,000 gift to former New York state official was a "sweetheart deal."

The Nevada Democrat, who is chairman of the Senate Rules Committee that recently concluded hearings on the Rockefeller nomination, addressed a luncheon of the National Passenger Traffic Association at the Hyatt Regency.

He told newsmen afterward that no final decision had been made to reconvene the Rockefeller hearings but "the chances are better than 50-50."

"I know we have not got the answers to all the questions," Cannon said. "I'm not completely satisfied with some of the information that's come out, especially with respect to Morehouse."

He was referring to L. Judson Morehouse, former New York state Republican chairman and member of the State Thruway Authority, who received an \$86,000 portion of the Rockefeller largesse.

Morehouse drew a three-year term for bribery in 1966, a sentence that was later commuted by then Governor Rockefeller because, as Rockefeller told

the Senate committee, Morehouse was gravely ill.

"I want to find out if that was a sweetheart deal," Senator Cannon said. "That is, if it was to buy stock that Rockefeller knew was going up in price and he could make a quick profit.

"I've got my investigator working on that now."

Did Cannon know if President Ford had benefited from the Rockefeller bounty?

"Some of the contributions in Michigan were to political committees," he said. "Perhaps, it's safe to guess that Mr. Ford received a contribution, but it would not be unlawful unless it was contributed to exert undue influence."

Cannon felt that Rockefeller's nomination would not come up for a vote before late November or early December.

And the chances?

"The chances of being confirmed look quite good."