

Chronicle Rockefeller Sworn In

---41st Vice President

The House Approves, 287-128

Washington

Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the nation's 41st vice president on national television in the Senate chamber last night after the House confirmed his nomination by a vote of 287 to 128.

Rockefeller, 66, was administered the oath by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger on the platform just below the chair Rockefeller will occupy as presiding officer of the Senate.

This will be his only constitutional duty besides being back-up president, but he is expected to play an active role in the Ford administration.

It was the first time the Senate had admitted TV cameras to its chamber.

President Ford sat on the platform behind Burger, playing the same silent role as that of former President Nixon one year and two months ago when Mr. Ford took the oath as vice president in the House chamber where he had served for 25 years.

Most of the 100 senators were in their seats and more than 100 House members stood in the rear of the chamber and spilled down the aisles.

In the galleries across an aisle from each other were Mrs. Rockefeller and Mrs. Ford, both recovering from operations that removed cancerous breasts. In the same gallery were former Democratic New York Governor Averell Harriman whom Rockefeller defeated in 1958 and outgoing Republican Governor Malcolm Wilson who lost to an absent Hugh Carey. Other guests included William J. Ronan, recipient of a controversial \$625,000 gift from Rockefeller, and J. Richardson Dilworth, manager of the Rockefeller family's vast wealth.

After the oath was administered, Rockefeller and Burger both signed the Senate

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log, signed by all senators after they are sworn in.

Glancing at notes scribbled on a yellow legal pad, Rockefeller expressed his "gratitude for the privilege to serve the country I love." He stated his respect and affection for Mr. Ford and both their wives, observed that his grandfather, Nelson Aldrich, had served in the Senate 31 years, and pledged himself to work with the President and Congress to solve the nation's problems.

"There is nothing wrong with America that Americans cannot right," said Rockefeller who has served in national and state government for nearly 35 years.

Rockefeller is a member of one of the wealthiest families in the country. This provoked some opposition because of the alleged conflict of interest in merging private power with high public office.

He also served for 15 years as governor of New York and in several high federal posts, an experience which supporters felt outweighed any possible conflict.

With the swearing-in, the nation for the first time in history has both a President and vice president not elected nationally. Under provisions of the 25th Amendment to fill a vacancy in the office of vice president, Mr. Ford was nominated by Mr. Nixon and confirmed by a majority of both houses of Congress when Spiro T. Agnew resigned after pleading no contest to one charge of federal income tax evasion.

Rockefeller was nominated by Mr. Ford on August 20 after Mr. Nixon resigned in the face of certain impeachment for his involvement in the Watergate coverup.

The Senate voted confirmation earlier, 90 to 7.

The fact that the two top federal offices are occupied by men who have never faced a national election has

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troubled many members and may cause re-examination of the 25th Amendment by the next Congress on the possibility of a special election instead of the present procedure.

When Rockefeller's nomination as vice president was sent to Congress four months ago today; he seemed likely to be confirmed with little opposition except from a handful of conservatives still burning from his refusal to support Barry Goldwater for President in 1964.

Rockefeller has been viewed over the years as the leader of the liberal wing of the Republican Party, but many liberals view him now as a conservative. His opposition in the House came mostly from liberal Democrats who were concerned by a campaign book, the gifts and most of all what they perceived as a disqualifying conflict of interest caused by merging his great private wealth with the power of high public office.

Rockefeller's confirmation vote in the House yesterday of 287 to 128 compares with Mr. Ford's vote a year ago when he was confirmed as vice president. The vote for the popular former congressman was 387 to 35

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AP Wirephoto

NELSON ROCKEFELLER AND WARREN BURGER
The oath of office was administered by the Chief Justice of the U.S.



AP Wirephoto

PRESIDENT FORD AND VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER
The President congratulated the man he had nominated four months earlier