

FORD AD

Rockefeller Apologizes to Senate Over 'Discourtesy' on Filibuster

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WASHINGTON, April 24—Vice President Rockefeller apologized today for any "discourtesy" he showed the Senate when he presided over a change in the filibuster rule two months ago.

His failure at that time to recognize Senator James B. Allen, an Alabama Democrat who was a leading defender of the old filibuster rule, enraged conservative Senators of both parties and has been a sore point ever since with conservatives in and out of the Senate.

Under a suspension of Senate rules allowing the Vice President to deliver a short statement today, Mr. Rockefeller said he had made a parliamentary error in not responding to Mr. Allen's call for recognition. He left the implication, however, that the inquiry Mr. Allen had been trying to make was out of order anyway and, further, that his ruling

had not been instrumental in the Senate's modification of the filibuster rule.

The Senate finally compromised on the filibuster rule last February by requiring 60 Senate votes—instead of the old two-thirds of the Senators present and voting—to cut off prolonged debate.

Mr. Rockefeller's apology today did not affect that compromise. But his larger purpose seemed to be to calm the continuing resentment over his role in the Senate, where the Constitution makes him the presiding officer with power to break tie votes.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Rockefeller told a meeting of publishers in New Orleans that conservative Senators had tried to "blackmail" President Ford to

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ALL I want is "trigere" perfume—and the cologne too! At Fine Stores.—Advt.



United Press International
Senator James B. Allen

warned the millionaire Vice President that "he does not own this body," led the praise today.

"I think the important thing," said Mr. Long, "is that when people who have been elevated to high positions in this land do make a mistake they have the courage, moral integrity and forthrightness to correct it."

Senator Allen, who had advance notice of Mr. Rockefeller's apology, commended him for being a big enough man to make the statement that he has made.

'A True Story'

Senator Allen then presented Mr. Rockefeller with an inscribed copy of an editorial cartoon in The Birmingham News that made fun of Mr. Rockefeller's Senate activity.

In a final double-edged gesture of reconciliation, Senator Allen said that he would stop telling a "true story" he had related often in past weeks.

The "true story" he repeated, was that when Mr. Rockefeller was nominated for the Vice Presidency last August, Mr. Allen had told a friend that the former Governor of New York was his second choice.

Mr. Allen continued on the Senate floor today: "When pressed for a more complete answer as to who the first choice of the Senator from Alabama was, the Senator from Alabama said that it was anyone else whose name may have been mentioned."

A spokesman for the Vice President said today that his mention of "blackmail" two weeks ago referred only to political pressure put on Mr. Ford at the time of filibuster dispute in February. The spokesman denied that the anti-Rockefeller pressure on Mr. Ford was a continuing thing.

Conservative Republicans, on the other hand, had listed Mr. Rockefeller's role in the filibuster debate as only one of several reasons to consider the Vice President's nomination at their 1976 convention.

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force a change in the Vice President's position on the filibuster.

A carefully prepared ritual on the Senate floor this afternoon included cordial responses from five Senators and appeared to mark a cease-fire on the point.

Mr. Rockefeller, talking with reporters afterward, sought to discount the broader political implications of his apology on his still uneasy relations with powerful conservatives. "If I make a mistake I like to say so," he commented. "I'm a very simple person."

Conservative Senators made it clear again today that they thought Mr. Rockefeller had indeed made a grave mistake during their debate on Feb. 26—"an error," according to Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic whip, "that should not have been made."

But Mr. Byrd and others congratulated the Vice President on his repentance and applauded him before he left the chamber.

Senator Russell B. Long, a Louisiana Democrat who denounced Mr. Rockefeller's behavior two months ago and