

## Rocky Replies to Callaway Remark

Washington

Vice President Nelson Rockefeller yesterday blamed the political inexperience of President Ford's campaign manager, Howard Callaway, for the flap over Rockefeller's prospects to be Mr. Ford's running mate next year.

While speaking in a conciliatory tone about Callaway at a breakfast meeting with reporters, the vice president said Callaway's background in southern Republican politics and lack of "as much experience in the party nationally as some of us" had led the campaign manager to overemphasize anti-Rockefeller sentiment in the party.

Because Callaway "was zeroed in on securing delegates," the vice president said, he reacted excessively to the challenge for conservative GOP support "from my good friend, Ronnie Reagan"—the former California governor, popular in Dixie, for whom a rival presidential campaign already has been launched.

Rockefeller described opposition to him among party conservatives as "knee-jerk" and "visceral" and later said that, based on his visits to the South, he believed that opposition had softened greatly.

Callaway nine days ago had told another group of reporters that Rockefeller was "the No. 1 problem" in nailing down the nomination for Mr. Ford, and that the President might want a younger man as his running mate. Rockefeller will be 68 at the time of the 1976 election.

*Washington Post*