

ROCKEFELLER BARS PRESIDENT NAMES RICHARDSON TO

RACE ON FORD TICKET; RUMSFELD TO DEFENSE, COMMERCE, BUSH TO C.I.A.

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MUTUAL DECISION

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Vice President's Letter
Gives No Reason for
His Withdrawal

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Vice President Rockefeller added today to the sudden upheaval within the Ford Administration by saying that he would not be the President's running mate in 1976.

The decision was reached by agreement between President

Text of Rockefeller letter
appears on page 26.

Ford and the Vice President, according to Administration sources, who added that the President had known for about two weeks that Mr. Rockefeller was planning to withdraw publicly from consideration as the Republican Party's Vice-Presidential candidate.

Mr. Rockefeller publicly disclosed the move by releasing a letter to President Ford, which he delivered to the Oval Office of the White House at 10:30 this morning. The President and Vice President met for 20 minutes in an atmosphere described as "extremely cordial" by Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary.

No Reason Given

The letter gave no reason for Mr. Rockefeller's action, and aides left open the possibility of his running for President himself.

However, President Ford, at his news conference tonight, said that Mr. Rockefeller had "assured me categorically that he will support me in 1976."

Mr. Ford said Mr. Rockefeller had not been asked to withdraw as a candidate for election. The Vice President, Mr. Ford said, had "done a superb job" and had made "a decision on his own" not to seek election next year.

One White House source close to the President said that Mr. Rockefeller would have inevitably had to step aside because his presence had become "detrimental" to Mr. Ford's efforts to win the Republican Party nomination.

The White House official said that Mr. Rockefeller had been unable to make his peace with the right wing of the Republican Party. He was, therefore, regarded as a liability by the President Ford Committee, which is seeking to win the party's Presidential nomination for Mr. Ford in the face of an expected strong challenge by former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, the official explained.

Mr. Reagan is a favorite of the Republican right.

President Ford said recently that he would announce "at the proper time" whether or not he wanted Mr. Rockefeller as his running mate in 1976.

Javits Expected Move

Meanwhile, Mr. Rockefeller has grown increasingly uncomfortable in his Vice-Presidential role, according to members of his staff and others familiar with his activities. Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, said in a telephone interview today that he had been expecting Mr. Rockefeller's decision for several months.

Senator Javits said that Mr. Rockefeller's position in an Administration tailoring its policies to the most conservative elements in the Republican Party was becoming "untenable." As four-term Governor of New York State, Mr. Rockefeller had found President Ford's decision to withhold Federal aid needed to keep New York City out of bankruptcy as particularly "hard to stomach," Senator Javits added.

Mr. Ford at his news confer-

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Rockefeller Bars a Race on Ford's Ticket

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ence described the differences between him and Mr. Rockefeller on the issue of aid to New York City as "minimal."

A former aide considered to be close to the Vice President said that Mr. Rockefeller had grown increasingly unhappy in his role as a loyal "Number Two" in the Ford Administration and also felt that he could be a counterpoise to the right wing drift of the Administration after renouncing any intention to seek the Vice-Presidency next year.

This former aide also said that Mr. Rockefeller has probably made up his mind to resign before the President told him he was not wanted.

In his letter, Mr. Rockefeller praised Mr. Ford for his "dedi-

cation to the Presidency," and for his "courage, resolution and forthrightness."

He also said that he had made it clear to the President and the public that he had not been a candidate for the Vice-Presidency and that "realistically" it is up to the Presidential candidate to recommend a Vice-Presidential candidate to the national convention.

"After much thought," Mr. Rockefeller wrote, "I have decided further that I do not wish my name to enter into your consideration for the upcoming Republican Vice-Presidential nominee. I wish you to know this for your own planning."

Mr. Rockefeller added that he would, of course, continue to carry out his constitutional duties as Vice President and "to assist in every way I can in

carrying on to cope with the problems that confront the nation until the installation once again of a President and Vice President duly elected by the people of this great Republic."

Several members of Mr. Rockefeller's staff pointed to what they said was the "cold" tone of the Vice President's letter and the fact that Mr. Rockefeller had neither praised Mr. Ford's leadership as President nor supported his nomination next year.

These aides also noted that the letter did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Rockefeller might run for President next year. They carefully avoided suggesting that Mr. Rockefeller would seek the Presidency but pictured him as disengaging to wait and watch for new power struggles within the Republican party.

They also made it clear that Mr. Rockefeller's friends consider the party to be in grave danger. One aide commented that the Vice President had been concerned about the "lurch to the right" and the letter to Mr. Ford was designed for "clearing the air and setting some counterforces in motion."

Noncommittal Statements

Public statements about the letter were also noncommittal. Mr. Nessen, speaking informally to reporters this morning, said that "the letter speaks for itself" and added that there was "a complete understanding" between the President and Vice President. Mr. Rockefeller and his spokesmen were not available for comment before President Ford's news conference. But a statement put out by the New York State Republican Committee was couched in language almost identical to that used by Mr. Nessen.

White House officials said that Mr. Rockefeller discussed his decision with President Ford last Thursday. A senior Republican political operative who has long been personally close to the President said that although the timing of Mr. Rockefeller's announcement had been prearranged, he was "not pushed" by the President, adding that the decision to step aside had been reached by "mutual agreement."

Mr. Rockefeller's action throws open the contest for the Republican Vice-Presidential nomination next year. It also adds to the disarray of Presi-

dent Ford's campaign to win the Presidency in his own right, following the resignation of two key figures—David Packard, the chief fundraiser, and Lee Nunn, deputy director—from the committee seeking the Republican nomination for Mr. Ford.

Mr. Ford and Mr. Rockefeller are the nation's first President and Vice President to come to office without having been elected. Both came to office under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. Mr. Ford became President after the resignation of Richard M. Nixon, who selected Mr. Ford as his Vice President after the resignation of Vice President Agnew.

Mr. Rockefeller, one of the heirs to the great Rockefeller fortune, who had been Governor of New York for 15 years, was sworn in as Vice President on Dec. 19, 1974. Regarded for many years as a leader of the liberal wing of the Republican party, he was seen as a political counterpoise to Mr. Ford, a conservative from Grand Rapids, Mich.

However, Mr. Rockefeller was never accepted by the ultraconservatives who exercised increasing power within party circles. And Mr. Ford, faced with the necessity of turning back a challenge from Mr. Reagan, moved steadily closer to the right wing of the party.

This chasm between the two men widened greatly when the Vice President called for Federal aid for New York City while the President was ruling out such aid.

Today, Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, who defeated Mr. Rockefeller in an acrimonious battle for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1964, praised the Vice President's decision and called it a "commendable recognition of today's political realities."

However, Senator Charles McC. Mathias, a liberal Republican from Maryland, said that the Vice President's decision "is the Republican Party would 'now be perceived as a narrower-based' conservative party. Senator Mathias indicated last week he might challenge the conservative candidates of President Ford and Mr. Reagan. Today, he said he believed this kind of challenge is now more necessary than ever.



White House Photograph by Jack Kightlinger via Associated Press
Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Vice President Rockefeller meeting yesterday in Mr. Rockefeller's office in the Executive Office Building in Washington. They met after Mr. Rockefeller said he wouldn't run next year.