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Vice President's Letter

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (UPI)—Following is the text of Vice President Rockefeller's letter, delivered to the White House today, telling President Ford he will not be his 1976 running mate:

Dear Mr. President:

The time is virtually at hand when you will be firming up your program for the Presidential primaries, the Republican National Convention and the Presidential campaign of 1976. Involving, as this must, difficult calculations, considerations and decisions, it will clearly help you in this task if the range of options is simplified at the earliest time.

As I have told you and the American people, I have been honored by your nomination of me as Vice President and by the approval of the Congress. In association with you in the months since that time, I have come to have the highest regard for your dedication to the Presidency and for your courage, resolution and forthrightness. Your friendship and that of Mrs. Ford mean much to Mrs. Rockefeller and myself.

My acceptancy of the Vice-Presidency, as you know, was based upon my concern to help restore national unity and confidence after the shattering experience of Water-

gate. Working under your leadership toward this goal has been challenging and rewarding as our basic institutions are surmounting our unprecedented criss and the nation is returning to its regular elective Presidential pattern next year.

Regarding next year and my own situation, I have made it clear to you and to the public that I was not a candidate for the Vice-Presidency, that no one realistically can be such, and that the choice of a Vice-Presidential running mate is, and must be, up to the Presidential candidate to recommend to a national party convention.

After much thought, 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 now for your own planning. I shall, of course, continue to serve as Vice President to discharge my constitutional obligations 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.

Sincerely yours,

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER