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ROCKEFELLER BACKS VIETNAM SILENCE

Tells Urban Coalition That
He Feared U. S. Aid Cuts

By ERNEST HOLSENDOLPH
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WASHINGTON, May 1—Vice President Rockefeller told leaders of the National Urban Coalition today that he had declined to criticize American involvement in Vietnam in the nineteen-sixties because he feared he would harm New York State's chances of obtaining Federal aid.

"I was elected Governor of New York, and my responsibility was to the people of New York," Mr. Rockefeller said in response to a question. "You don't kick people in Washington in the shins if you expect them to do something for you."

He added that "I think I did a pretty good job, if I do say so myself," asserting that during his administration the state increased its aid from the Federal Government from 5 cents on each dollar of taxes paid by the state to 18 cents.

The questioner, who later identified himself as Mark Plotkin, assistant director of financial development for the National Urban Coalition, told the Vice President he was "disappointed" that Mr. Rockefeller had failed to speak out while the Government was spending "\$140-billion and 50,000 lives" on the war in Vietnam.

"I can see that you never ran for political office, young man," The Vice President said.

Hostile Questions

Mr. Rockefeller fielded a number of hostile questions from the audience, made up of the steering committee of the Urban Coalition, who said they were concerned that problems of the cities were receiving less than their share of support from Washington.

Irene Tovar, a member of the Los Angeles Urban Coalition, praised somewhat sarcastically the prompt rescue of and welcome to Vietnamese refugees, and asked the Vice President why, by contrast, the Government was deporting "illegal but tax-paying" Mexican-Americans.

Miss Tovar said she was especially concerned about the alleged deportation of the children of illegal aliens, since many of the second generation persons were settled, working and paying taxes.

Mr. Rockefeller said the question was "complicated by the high rate of domestic unemployment, the high rate of illegal immigration" and population pressure from Mexico.

The Vice President urged the coalition to support general revenue sharing as a means of helping localities more efficiently than older Federal programs with their bureaucracies and red tape.