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AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE: President Nixon met with Governor Rockefeller, Attorney General John N. Mitchell, right, and Robert R. Douglass, secretary to the Governor, at morning session here before the fight to Illinois.

Nixon and Rockefeller Breakfast Here

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

President Nixon and Governor Rockefeller had breakfast together in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel yesterday, and they talked about aid to parochial schools, Mr. Nixon's new economic program, welfare reform and revenue-sharing—but not, the Governor insisted, about political matters, such as Mayor Lindsay's switching from the Republican to the Democratic party.

At the President's request, Mr. Rockefeller met with Mr. Nixon for about an hour and a half in an elegant dining room on the 35th floor of the hotel. Then the Governor descended to a noisy garage to brief the press on some of the topics discussed.

Over the roar of police motorcycles and running limousine engines that formed part of the Presidential motorcade, Mr. Rockefeller singled out the President's 90-day wage-price freeze, along with a series of domestic and international moves to strengthen the dollar, for special praise.

Economic Move Praised

The new Nixon economic policy is, the Governor asserted, "the most exciting and significant program for solving economic problems internally and internationally that has ever been proposed in the history of our country."

"The President stressed that his proposals are not meant to build a wall around this country to create isolation," Mr. Rockefeller added.

One area touched on by the two leaders, the Governor said, was welfare reform. Mr. Nixon's proposed welfare-reform program is "not dead" for this year, the Governor said.

The President has, in light of his economic program, sought passage of the reform program this year but has asked for a year's delay before it becomes effective.

In Washington, supporters of the welfare legislation contended that the request for a delay had sharply reduced the urgency in Congress to pass the bill this year and had cast doubt on its enactment before the 1972 election.

The Governor also sounded encouraged about another welfare proposal—a controversial special demonstration project that he has proposed to provide

"incentives" for welfare recipients in the state "to stay at work" and to "keep the family together."

To date the proposal has been stalled because the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has been trying to decide whether or not it violates Federal guidelines.

Mr. Rockefeller discussed the matter with Mr. Nixon, he said, and "I think we are working this out with the President; on Friday we should have a final word on this."

Briefly, the program, to be financed with Federal funds, would permit the state to require employable welfare recipients of Aid to Dependent Children to earn their grants through work in various community services.

Welfare 'Incentives' Planned

Another aspect of the program—to be tried out in three as yet unannounced welfare districts in the state—would be to provide a portion of welfare payments in the form of "incentives"—such as a welfare mother earning a portion of her stipend by seeing that her children are not truant from school.

Welfare groups have criticized the proposal, saying that the "incentives" would mean such things as not receiving full benefits if apartments were not kept clean and the like. An aide to the Governor denied this was the intent.

Also "not dead," the Governor said, is the President's proposed \$5-billion Federal revenue-sharing program with the states, a concept that in recent months the Governor has lobbied for incessantly. In announcing his economic program Sunday night, the President asked for passage of the program with a three-month delay in its effective date.

Had Mayor Lindsay's decision last week to switch to the Democratic party come up at the breakfast, the Governor was asked.

"That subject did not come up," he replied. "There was no

talk about politics." Then the Governor said of Mr. Lindsay: "The amusing thing about it is he said he was leaving the present party in power because it could not solve the problems of the country."

In another reference to the Mayor's switch in party allegiance, the Governor added: "Perhaps if he had waited three days, he might have had a different point of view."

Mr. Nixon arrived in the city Tuesday evening to address a Knights of Columbus dinner in the Waldorf. He delighted 1,500 members of the Roman Catholic fraternal society by telling them that they could count on his help in efforts to reverse the trend of parochial schools closing because of financial troubles.

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Nixon Remarks Criticized

Mr. Nixon's remarks, which were criticized as "a turning aside" from his Constitutional responsibility by the American Jewish Congress yesterday, followed a forceful speech by Cardinal Cooke.

The Cardinal said that denial of government aid to parochial schools was "unreasonable and discriminatory" and deprived Catholic parents of Constitutional rights.

The President, the Governor, Attorney General John N. Mitchell, John D. Ehrlichman, the President's adviser on domestic affairs, and Robert R. Douglass, secretary to the Governor, were discussing parochial-school aid when the breakfast began.

Photographers and a few reporters were admitted briefly to the gold-painted dining room to observe the gathering, seated at a table under a large crystal chandelier.

As photographers snapped away at the President and the Governor, Mr. Douglass explained to Mr. Nixon how New York State had devised some programs that provided funds for parochial-school pupils while skirting the State Constitution's ban on aid to parochial schools.