



Those to Benefit By Watergate

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WHETHER FIRE or flood or famine or pandemic, every great disaster always benefits someone. Even the Black Death greatly improved the lot of many who did not go to the mass graves of the 14th century.

In England, for instance, the resulting shortage of men to till the land vastly strengthened the bargaining position of the survivors.

To this grim rule, the Watergate horror is sure to be no exception. Two of the main beneficiaries can even be spotted today. Although the 1976 election is still so far ahead, the presidential candidacies of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York and Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington already look much, much more promising than they did a month or so ago.

The case of Nelson Rockefeller is simple enough. If reelected governor by a solid majority—as he is all but certain to be—Rockefeller will become an active candidate for the presidency at the end of 1974.

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TODAY, THE chances are that members of the Nixon big-business wing of the party will feel they need Rockefeller more than he needs them. Since he has moved rightwards in recent years, he is also far more acceptable to average Republicans. Most important of all, the Nixon-big business candidates are being visibly weakened by the Watergate horror.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has had zero-minus to do with Watergate. He has lately been treated with icy remoteness by the White House. But simply because he is vice president, Agnew can hardly present himself as a transfusion of fresh and dif-

ferent political blood. As for the formidable Texan, former Governor John Connally, his strong big business-aura is daily becoming more of a handicap.

Yet the Watergate horror is visibly damaging the entire Republican party. Thus the more important but less noticed beneficiary of the horror is Senator Jackson. In recent American political history, no potential presidential candidate has ever gathered together so many important political assets, while attracting so little public attention. The acquisition of just one of these Jackson assets would have put Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts on every front page of the country.

For instance, the event was passed over in virtual silence except in Chicago. Yet last March 9, Scoop Jackson's candidacy was publicly endorsed by Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago.

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AT THE most recent AFL-CIO council meeting in Miami, all the countless Democratic presidential aspirants angled for invitations. Powerful old George Meany invited only Scoop Jackson, who addressed a breakfast of AFL-CIO union leaders with great success.

Daley, Meany and Jackson in truth form a solid alliance, nowadays. The new triumvirate was mainly responsible for the defeat of Senator George McGovern's people at the Democratic national committee, and the resulting installation of the able new committee chairman, Robert Strauss.

Nor is that all. No single group is so important for the Democratic party as the Jewish community; and Scoop Jackson today is the prime hero of American Jewry.