

Mysterious allegations cleared up

Examiner News Service

WASHINGTON — President Ford declared yesterday that Nelson Rockefeller remains in the running for Vice President and criticized what a White House official called an attempt by right-wing extremists to discredit the former New York Governor.

"President Ford has advised me that former Gov. Rockefeller has been and remains under consideration for the vice presidential nomination," White House Press Secretary Jerald F. terHorst said after emerging from an Oval Office meeting.

TerHorst's statement came after a series of developments and White House disclosures that led to speculation Rockefeller had little chance of getting the nomination.

Meanwhile, however, two Republican sources on Capitol Hill said they had learned that neither Rockefeller nor Republican national chairman George Bush was likely to be selected.



—AP Photo

NELSON ROCKEFELLER
This week at Maine retreat

news service reporters to his office to respond to the inquiries.

He said that Philip Buchen, a long-time Ford friend and adviser, was contacted early Sunday, Aug. 11, by a man who identified himself only as "Mr. Long."

According to terHorst, this source told Buchen that he had information on the whereabouts and contents of the so-called Hunt papers. TerHorst said the man told Buchen "there ought to be some things he ought to know" if Rockefeller were being considered for Vice President.

When advised by Buchen, Ford ordered all the available information given to Jaworski's office. Members of the

prosecutor's staff said later they had found nothing in the specified location and considered the investigation closed.

The incident and Ford's reaction to it prompted speculation that Rockefeller no longer was in the running to fill the vacant vice presidency. But terHorst told reporters at

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mid-afternoon that Rockefeller remained in contention, and added:

"The President regards the inaccurate information given to Mr. Buchen on Sunday, Aug. 11 as a deplorable example of the lengths to which certain persons will go to discredit Mr. Rockefeller and thereby attempt to

remove him from consideration."

Under questioning, terHorst said, "I think this is an attempt by an extremist group to discredit Governor Rockefeller."

TerHorst would not elaborate, but said his judgment was "based on reasonable assumptions" that the incident apparently represented

an effort by "extremists who wished for reasons of their own" to lead Ford to pick someone other than Rockefeller.

Another White House official, who declined to be identified, said he was told that Rockefeller was the target of "right wing extremists." This official said he could not be more specific, but said all the information

had been made available to Jaworski's office and that an investigation is possible.

TerHorst said the White House is not conducting an investigation of its own, but that Ford is eager to find out all he can about the apparent ruse.

"There is no clear indication that those responsible were connected in any way with one of the other men said to be under consideration for Vice President, and the real identity of the tipster is still unknown," terHorst said.

The informer who contacted Buchen did so first by telephone. Later that day, the man met with Buchen in the executive building next door to the White House.

Buchen later presented all of the charges to Ford, who ordered that they be turned over to the special prosecutor.

TerHorst rejected a reporter's suggestion that the White House had been "duped," maintaining that the important thing was to clear up the situation before Ford selected the vice presidential nominee.

He said that as far as he knew, neither Ford nor any other White House official had talked to Rockefeller about the matter.