

Rockefeller: Nixon Punished Enough

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SEAL HARBOR, Maine, Aug. 23—Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller said today he believes former President Nixon has been punished enough by having to resign.

Mr. Nixon has been "hung," Rockefeller said, quoting Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania.

"It doesn't seem to me, as he said, that he should in addition be drawn and quartered," Rockefeller added.

He described Scott's assessment as a "very good statement" that reflected "the mood and spirit of Congress."

The former New York governor said, however, he was not urging amnesty or a presidential pardon for Mr. Nixon, if he were indicted. "That is a matter only the courts can decide," Rockefeller declared.

Rockefeller, who spoke to reporters twice today at his summer residence here, said he would campaign this fall but not against incumbents. He said he does not want to contribute to "political uneasiness" while the Senate and

House are considering his vice presidential nomination.

If confirmed, Rockefeller said, he would do whatever the President asked him to do. "I just want to be useful," he said.

"I would like to help in any way I can President Ford, who, in my opinion, has reestablished faith and hope in this country. He has opened the doors and the windows and there is a great feeling of confidence and optimism growing."

Of the Nixon presidency, the Vice President-designate said its record would be "dichotomous" because it had "great achievements" but "ended in tragedy."

Anticipating the inquiry into his fitness for the office, Rockefeller said he was preparing his financial accounts for the Congress and FBI. He reportedly is worth from \$200 million to \$300 million, although he indicated these estimates may be too high, saying people will be "surprised" or "disappointed" about his worth.

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Rockefeller called Mr. Ford a "unique man of destiny" who has "great courage" as well as "great depth and dimension."

He said he was especially pleased that Mr. Ford had visited Congress and had invited to the White House persons previously unwelcome.

"This has got to be a new era," Rockefeller said. "To see Bella Abzug standing next to the President and Shirley Chisholm near her clapping . . . my goodness! That's something." The two New York Democratic representatives witnessed the President sign a Women's Equality Day proclamation earlier this week.

Rockefeller ruled out talk of his own presidential ambitions, emphasizing at both press conferences that "politics at this time are totally irrelevant."

"The question of ideologies—liberal and conservative, Democratic and Republican—really has no place. In times like these, we can't afford the luxury of some of these traditional activities."

Rockefeller described himself as "extremely optimistic" about the country's future.

He said he accepted President Ford's nomination to be vice President because he felt there is a national and worldwide crisis of very serious proportion. "Several years ago Rockefeller dismissed the Vice President's function as being one of 'standby equipment.'"

Last December Rockefeller resigned the New York governorship after serving for 15 years. He now heads the Commission on Critical Chances for Americans, a Rockefeller-funded top-level study group, currently looking into the country's future.

In one news conference, Rockefeller singled out inflation as the greatest problem facing the United States.

It has disastrous effects on various groups in this country, especially those which can least afford it."

Inflation can be fought, Rockefeller added. "There are tremendous opportunities for the future. We can lead this country—as I am confident President Ford will—to new concepts and new approaches which can have for all of us the basis for great optimism for the future."

Rockefeller was in a relaxed mood as he talked with the press, wearing a matching yellow sportshirt and socks and a pair of green slacks. He sat on a bench at the end of a boat dock near his house, put his arm around his wife, laughed and joked, and shook hands with visitors.