

Rockefeller Meets Southern Leaders

By LINDA CHARLTON
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller, on his way to dinner and an overnight stay at the White House, met privately today with the Southern Republican state chairmen in an apparently successful effort to reconcile the conservative group to his becoming Vice President.

The state chairmen themselves issued no statement after Mr. Rockefeller's hour-long appearance, but he emerged smiling from the meeting and said it had been "very friendly."

He said it had been "a get-acquainted meeting" from which he had gained the impression that "we're all one country, one nation and one party," adding that he supported the two-party system but meant that the Republican party was a united one.

Clark Reed, the Mississippi state chairman who is also chairman of the group, standing beside Mr. Rockefeller in the corridor outside the meeting room, said the meeting had been "fantastic," and that "we expect him to be down there [in the South] more than the rest of the country."

Mr. Rockefeller said, of the possibility of his making campaign appearances in the South, "I have some engagements already. It depends on the hearings." Meanwhile, he said he was "filing information like crazy" with the committee that will hold hearings on his confirmation.

He had indicated previously that he was unlikely to do any

campaigning until he was confirmed by the House and Senate. But he does have some appearances scheduled that he accepted before his designation as Vice President by President Ford last week—for instance, a fund-raising dinner in Enid, Okla., on Sept. 13.

Tommy Thomas, the Florida state chairman, said the meeting had been "very candid-friendly." Asked if he felt that he and his Southern colleagues would support Mr. Rockefeller, who has not been acceptable in the South since 1964 because of his bitter rivalry with and less than lukewarm support of Senator Barry Goldwater as the party's Presidential candidate, Mr. Thomas said, "Oh sure. All of us can."

Mr. Thomas also said that Mr. Rockefeller had discussed the 1964 campaign, adding:

"He said he did support him [Mr. Goldwater]. It was reported otherwise, and maybe Mr. Goldwater didn't think he supported him enough, but he did support him."

Mr. Thomas said he thought Mr. Rockefeller would be "a help" to Republican candidates in Florida, and said that he has been invited to appear there.

Mr. Reed, who is regarded as one of the more moderate of the generally conservative group, said he thought Mr. Rockefeller could do a great deal to erase the image of the "bad, rich Yankee" from the South and "perform a great service in the reconciliation of the North and South" that he said was begun during the Nixon Administration.

He conceded that, with occa-

sional favorite-sons exceptions, the first choices of the Southern chairmen for the Vice Presidency would have been Gov. Ronald Reagan of California and Senator Goldwater of Arizona.

Richard Obenshain of Virginia said that the meeting with Mr. Rockefeller had not changed his view, which was one of "disappointment in the choice."

"I think it is simply a truism that he has not been as close to the Republican party in the South as other, more conservative figures," Mr. Obenshain observed.

He said that Mr. Rockefeller had mentioned "the Attica situation" during the meeting as "one of the things that he has been criticized about." This referred to the Governor's handling of a prison riot in the state. Mr. Rockefeller said only that the meeting had been "really a general discussion," with emphasis on the economic situation.

Twelve of the 13 Southern chairmen in the group were at the meeting, which took place in a lower-level luncheon-end meeting room in the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, three blocks from the White House.

The meeting was called by Mr. Reed before Mr. Rockefeller's designation to re-assess the party's situation in the South in the aftermath of President Nixon's resignation.

Among the other speakers the group heard today were Anne Armstrong, and Dean Burch, both holdover counselors to the Presidents, and Robert T. Hartmann, named by President Ford as a Cabinet-rank counselor.

Ford Approves \$50-Million For Broadcasters to East

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28 (Reuters)—President Ford signed legislation today authorizing \$49,990,000 to support Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and provide expenses for the Board for International Broadcasting.

The authorization covers the 1975 fiscal year, which began last month.

The board administers United States grants to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and evaluates their broadcasts to the Soviet Union and the Eastern European Communist countries.

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