

Money Problem To Be Weighed On Rockefeller's Candidacy

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series discussing the pros and cons of whether Gov. A. Rockefeller will announce for the GOP presidential nomination in opposition to Vice President Nixon. The following spotlights his political life as one of the world's wealthiest men.

By JACK V. FOX
New York—(UPI)—Will too much money spoil Nelson Rockefeller's chances for the Republican presidential nomination?

It's a fair question and certainly one both the Republican party and Rockefeller will weigh before the GOP convention decides next summer on its candidate.

Rockefeller has a personal fortune estimated at \$100 million. Invested at 4 per cent, that would bring him an income of about \$80,000 a week—before taxes.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon, on the other hand, comes from modest circumstances—an on one past occasion made a considerable point of the fact his wife owned only a cloth coat.

Americans Accustomed

Americans have become accustomed to fairly wealthy presidents and presidential candidates. But nothing like a Rockefeller.

The consensus seems to be that his great inherited fortune would not hurt Rockefeller. Veteran Jacob Javits, the Republican U.S. senator from New York, says the question was disposed of when Rockefeller was elected governor last year.

Supporters point out that Rockefeller's career proves he feels an obligation to be of public service. At a recent Saints and Sinners lunch, where the honor guest takes a terrific ribbing, the toastmaster said of Mrs. Rockefeller:

"She is probably the only woman in the room who wishes her husband was shiftless."

Rockefeller as governor has gone to great pains to make sure his administration has no taint of gift-accepting. He even returned a dime sent him by a schoolchildren's group in

memory of the habit of his grandfather, John D.

His own money has been used on many occasions that could have been charged to the state. He had a lavish inaugural ball, but he picked up the tab. The grounds around the executive mansion in Albany are being landscaped at a personal cost of upwards of \$40,000.

Government Headquarters
He has turned over to state use two adjoining five-floor townhouses in the very exclusive high rent district off Fifth ave. on 55th st. in Manhattan. It is now the New York City headquarters of the state government.

One of his acts of generosity took an amusing twist.

The governor of New York is furnished a Cadillac limousine with the No. 1 state license plate. Rockefeller wanted the license but he preferred his own custom-built Chrysler, estimated to have cost around \$15,000.

Rockefeller gave the car to the state. But it was so wide his garage at the Mansion had to be enlarged and so tall that the ramp at the state capitol where the governor enters had to be lowered.

Post governors have used small airplanes normally kept busy by the conservation and other departments.

But Rockefeller instead uses the Conair bought by the Rockefeller brothers from Henry Ford III. It has a drawing room with space for about 20 passengers. Rockefeller picks up expense of the extra fuel and crew personnel.

If someone had been writing a script, they couldn't have done better for humanizing Rockefeller than having his son, Steven, marry his new bride from a modest Norwegian family.

Father Visited
Last month the new Mrs. Rockefeller's father came here to visit his daughter. Rockefeller on that occasion for the first time opened to reporters and photographers the fabulous ancestral estate which John D. built near Tarrytown, N.Y.

A year and a half ago, very

few people would have identified Nelson Rockefeller. Far more would have known something about one of his four brothers, Winthrop, whose marriage and \$6 million divorce settlement on Bobo Rockefeller made national headlines.

But Nelson has come very quickly to the national forefront. He has a tremendous capacity for making friends. Anyone who has watched him campaign realizes that he genuinely likes people.

One of his associates describes a scene he had witnessed many times.

"Rockefeller has a trait that sets him apart from so many politicians," he said.

"You have seen candidates receiving a line of well-wishers. Most of them have scarcely begun a handshake until they are looking over to see who is next. Rockefeller never does that. He looks the person in the eye as he shakes hands. He waits to see if he has anything to say. If he does, he listens. And only then does he pass on to the next."

Electric Quality

There is some sort of electric quality about the man. Franklin D. Roosevelt had it in fullest measure. Eisenhower has it, too. Wendell Willkie exercised something of the same spell. Thomas E. Dewey and the late Robert Taft were utterly without it.

As one enthusiastic backer put it, in this age of television Rockefeller is "able to get out of that box and into the living room." He is even more effective in person. His charm for women is fabulous.

As a matter of fact, he has become somewhat irritable about the emphasis on his personal charm to the expense of what he feels is an outstanding record as governor of New York state.

But the way it looks now, it will be that popular magnetism that could give him the party's nomination over Nixon.

(Next: Rockefeller's "Secret Weapon" in Politics.

Suggestions Offered For Driving Behavior

Chicago—(Science Service)—A Harvard University psychologist has offered four suggestions for improving driver behavior on the nation's highways. Alfred Moseley told the National Safety Congress here that drivers should be issued national drivers' licenses complete with an identifying photograph. He also recommended broader compulsory driver training programs, more adequate accident investigation procedures including mandatory autopsies, and on-the-spot accident hearings by authorized motor vehicle officers.

Lack of Opaque Glass Brings Howl of Protest

Sarasota, Fla.—Parents here raised a storm of protest when they learned a wall of window glass separated the pupils' rest rooms from the outside world at the new \$1½ million addition to Sarasota High school.

"What gives?" they asked School Board Chairman Philip Hiss.

"It's all a mistake!" he explained. "Clear glass was put in because the opaque glass we ordered came in the wrong size."

The parents persisted: "We won't consider that building ready until someone puts a few coats of black paint on those windows."

Hiss went them one better. The picture windows would be painted and later replaced when the right size opaque glass arrived, and for good measure, brick walls would be built to further block the view.

Synthetic Rubber Latex Developed

New York—(Science Service)—A new synthetic rubber latex said to be 100 per cent replacement for natural latex in foam rubber has been developed. The man-made latex, known as Pliolite 5352, is capable of producing a premium foam rubber to meet the high cushioning standards set by automotive, furniture, mattress and other manufacturers without blending in natural or other synthetic latices. Developed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, the new material is claimed to be closer to natural latex than any other synthetic latex.

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