

Rockefeller Strategy May Be Greatest in Political History

Editor's note: This is the third and last in a series about Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York which spotlights his activities as a possible GOP presidential nominee. The following describes his political techniques.

By JACK V. FOX
New York (UPI) — A high New York Republican official was joking recently about what he called Nelson Rockefeller's "secret weapon."

"He may have hit on the greatest political strategy in history," the man said. "Or it could prove to be the worst."

"It is simply to take an unequivocal position on an issue and back it up, no matter how unpopular it seems at first. He just doesn't give a damn. It is his idea of how problems should be approached and if that is fatal politically — then so be it."

Rockefeller's record as New York governor illustrates what he means.

Tackled Deficit
Immediately after his election last year, he decided to tackle the state's perennial financial deficit, head-on. As is his custom, he had an expert group make a study. They said the most effective, perhaps the only answer, was a raise in the state income tax across the board.

Rockefeller gave the word to raise taxes.
There was an uproar among state legislators in his own party. They argued for some traditional alternative — soaking business or instituting some kind of hidden taxes or floating more bonds or just going through the motions and letting the deficit stand.

"Nelson listened but he refused to budge an inch," a Republican leader recalled. "He said so many businesses were already moving to New Jersey and elsewhere that New York couldn't afford to drive more out with greater taxes and thus lose jobs and further state income."

"He pushed, and to everyone's amazement, he got the income tax through. He succeeded in making a lot of people pretty mad. You'll remember he remarked he didn't expect dancing in the streets. But he thinks leaders have got to face issues squarely and make the people face them, too. That's how he is."

Program Lays Egg
Rockefeller's program for nuclear bomb shelters for virtually every New Yorker laid an egg. The cost of backyard and basement shelters proved impractical and there were other objections. It is typical that Rockefeller didn't drop the plan but now has a

new approach in the works. Someone asked him recently what he would think if New York proved to be the only state attempting such a wide-sweeping shelter plan.

"What I think is that there might be a great many more people moving to New York one day," he said wryly. "We even might stop California from passing us in population."

Rockefeller inspires tremendous devotion from those who work for him. Lt. Gov. Malcolm Wilson says the governor has developed a unique governmental technique in his "task force" operations. He brings together the very best men available to work at no expense on a crash program, Wilson explained, and he keeps after them until they come up with a recommendation.

There are now 45 separate groups working on New York state problems from those to be presented to the legislature in January to others still on the horizon.

Cutting It Short
Rockefeller has said he intends to get his legislative program for 1960 "on the way" before he announces his decision on the candidacy. That is cutting it pretty short if he intends to make a fight in the spring primaries.

One of the things that immediately strikes you about Rockefeller's presidential chances is that he appears to have no organization doing the spunkwork for a campaign to overtake Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

In New York, a group of amateurs led by the president of the Schenectady young Republicans has incorporated a "Rockefeller for President" organization. It has neither

approval nor disapproval and it is devoid of really influential New York party members.

Rockefeller has no really outstanding party champion in Washington. U.S. Sen. Jacob Javits and some other New York congressmen are backing his candidacy but there is no real momentum in the capital to match Nixon's strength in national councils.

Out across the country, the picture is pretty much the same.

Support of Small Group
In Wisconsin, where another important primary will be held in April, Rockefeller has the support only of a small and relatively unimportant group of Republican workers. Nixon has the state GOP organization well tied up.

Rockefeller is well aware that he is far behind Nixon within the Republican organization. He is unorthodox but he is not naive.

His trip to California this week (?) may furnish him with his best guidance as to whether it is hopeless to take on Nixon.

And from the aura of confidence that surrounds the man around Rockefeller, you would think his chances are very good.

NIKITA MEETS EDITOR
Moscow (UPI) — Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev met Wednesday with United Arab Republic editor Salah Salem and was reported to have told him Soviet-UAR relations will improve. "I am confident that relations between the two countries will regain their friendly character and their strength," Salem said.

Soviet steel mills produced an estimated 60,500,000 tons of steel in 1958.

St. George said he was attacked while attempting to photograph a mob assault on a loudspeaker truck broadcasting President Osvaldo Dorticos' announcement that the report on Cienfuegos was not officially confirmed.

He said he was stoned and then pulled down from atop an automobile where he was taking pictures and punched in the body. Police came to his rescue and hustled him through the crowd, some of whom still tried to strike him.

A mob followed him to the police station where a station of guards took up positions outside to prevent anyone from entering.

An angry mob also surrounded Folinus, shouting anti-American slogans. Folinus replied to the threats in German and the demonstrators moved off.

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HEADON CRASH KILLS FIVE—Adults and children are shown sprawled on highway near Mountain View, Calif., after grinding head-on collision. Doctor, who happened to be passing by, is shown giving first aid. Four adults and a little girl were killed and five other persons injured.

6.5 Million Trees Slated for Planting

Salem—The state reforestation program for the coming winter contemplates the planting of some 6,565,000 trees and the aerial seeding of 10,620 pounds of tree seed on state owned forest land coming under the jurisdiction of the state forestry department, according to State Forester D. L. Phipps.

Some 5,050,000 of the tree seedlings are to be planted in the Tillamook burn while 8,977 pounds of tree seed will be aerially seeded in the same area, he added. The work will be done largely by crews working under the direction

of the department and the 60-man parolee camp located on the South Fork of Wilson river, Phipps said. An additional million seedlings are to be planted under private contract.

The remaining 1,515,000 seedlings and 1,282 pounds of tree seed are to be used mainly in the reforestation of old burns in ten separate counties. These include Clatsop, Lincoln, Klamath, Clackamas, Josephine, Linn, Benton, Douglas, Lake and Marion counties, Phipps indicated.

191 New Cases of TB in Portland

Portland (UPI) — Dr. James T. Speros, vice president of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Association, said Wednesday that Portland had 191 new cases of tuberculosis this year through Oct. 20.

This is 24 more cases than for the same period of 1958. Dr. Speros, who also is TB control officer for Portland, said TB deaths increased in the city too. Twenty-four victims were claimed in the first 10 months of this year compared to 11 for the comparable 1958 period.

Mobs in Cuba Beat and Stone Two Americans

Havana (UPI) — Mobs of anti-American Cubans beat and stoned U.S. photographer Andrew St. George of Time-Life and threatened United Press International photographer Joseph Folinus Wednesday.

The attacks came during demonstrations touched off by a false report that missing army commander Maj. Camilo Cienfuegos had been found.

The two Americans were attacked by mobs shouting "American newspapermen not welcome here," "go home, Yankee," and "to the wall"—a reference to the firing squad.

St. George said he was attacked while attempting to photograph a mob assault on a loudspeaker truck broadcasting President Osvaldo Dorticos' announcement that the report on Cienfuegos was not officially confirmed.

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Talent Firemen Called to Blaze

Talent—A flue fire in the attic of Norris Grocery, Old Pacific highway, was extinguished by the Talent Rural fire department Wednesday morning.

Damage was confined to the attic area with some smoke and water damage in the store area.

Rural firemen reported that the department's pumper broke down following the fire and a truck arrived under a mutual aid agreement from the Ashland fire department. The fire was reported out by the time the second truck arrived.

NOVELIST DIES
Princeton, N.J. (UPI) — I. A. R. Wylie, novelist, poet and short story writer, died Wednesday of a heart attack. She was 74.

GP Health Officer Replacement Sought

Grants Pass — The Grants Pass Realty board passed a resolution Tuesday asking the Josephine county court to replace the county health officer, Dr. C. W. Dewey, "at the earliest opportunity."

Those attending the meeting Tuesday noon at the Redwoods hotel heard complaints against the physician for his

conduct of the health officer position.

County Judge Raymond Lathrop and Commissioner Louis Ringuette, both of whom attended the luncheon by invitation, gave no immediate indication of what action the county court might take.

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