

### Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

#### WHAT ARE THE MINIMUMS?

New York - In this pollsters' election, the little state of New Hampshire is likely to be polled until it hurts. Last October, Vice President Richard M. Nixon ordered a poll there. The Nixon poll gratifyingly showed 79 per cent of the New Hampshire Republican voters choosing Nixon for their party's Presidential candidate next year.

At about the same time, New York's Gov. Nelson D. Rockefeller also ordered a poll in New Hampshire. Some what less gratifyingly, the Rockefeller poll was not very different from the Nixon poll. It showed over 70 per cent of the New Hampshire Republicans choosing Nixon, and less than 30 per cent choosing Rockefeller.

Some time soon, one can be certain there will be another Rockefeller poll. The Governor wants the very latest, freshest information, sizzling hot from the voters' pulses, so to say, before he makes up his mind about entering the New Hampshire primary (the primary's fateful filing day is Jan. 8).

If Rockefeller then enters a slate of delegates, as one can now bet he will do, another Nixon poll of New Hampshire will promptly ensue. It has already been ordered, on the assumption that Rockefeller is already running hard for the Republican nomination. The Nixon orders specify a poll "in depth." So it will go, no doubt, with poll following poll, until primary day comes in late winter. By then, if any New Hampshire Republican remains unpollled, he will have a right to feel insulted and write in a vote for Sen. Barry Goldwater, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, or some other ornament of his party.

In this way, at least, the Republican problem of the New Hampshire primary is richly comic. In every other way, however, it is a deadly serious problem, for Governor Rockefeller's final decision on his candidacy will be given in New Hampshire. This is a decision more serious for all concerned than many usually astute Republicans imagine. The reason for this extra seriousness of Rockefeller's decision is apparent if you study the habits of the man and the underlying facts of his present situation. The Governor, in brief, is a warm campaigner but a cool customer, who does not act on impulse or in a state of self-intoxication.

HE IS such a lavish poll-taker because he wants facts to base his choices on. He is a bold gambler, as he proved when he entered the New York race when his polls there showed that 60 per cent of the customers favored former Gov. Averell Harriman, against only 40 per cent for Rockefeller. But he also has his minimums, as aircraft pilots do, below which he will not risk a landing. In New York, again, he had resolved not to risk a landing if the odds were a single point more than 60-40 against him.

By Rockefeller's own standard in New York, or by any other practical standard, the political weather in New Hampshire appears to be below minimums for a Rockefeller effort in the primary. Although the Governor is trying to find out if the weather has changed for the better, he plainly does not count on any encouraging news before his day of decision. Yet there are still quite obvious signs that Rockefeller is strongly inclined to make the race against Nixon. He is packing now for another full dress

campaign tour through seven states.

What, then, is the clue to this seeming mystery, of an apparently rational man preparing to commit an apparently irrational act? The clue lies, beyond doubt, in the Governor's attempt to secure the full time help of the brilliant "Time-Life" writer, Emmet Hughes, who served long and well as the President's speech-drafter.

AFTER reflecting on this experience in the White House, Hughes has now published a stinging criticism of the Eisenhower's foreign and defense policies in a remarkable book, "America the Vincible." Rockefeller has long known the purport of this book. He knew, too, that it was calculated to enrage the President, as it has done. Yet he begged Hughes to come over to his staff, and to announce his new appointment, on the very day "America the Vincible" was published. If Rockefeller finally decides to make the race, moreover, it is all but certain that Hughes will join the Rockefeller staff at that time.

These facts only underline what is known already, that Governor Rockefeller, like Emmet Hughes, regards the Eisenhower foreign policy as sadly unimaginative and the Eisenhower defense program as grossly inadequate. They are Baldwin-like and almost Chamberlain-like, in Rockefeller's view.

Feeling this way, Rockefeller has another possible motive for making what now appears a hopeless race. He may wish to stake out what may be called a neo-Churchillian position, in advance of the day of reckoning that Baldwin-Chamberlain style policy-making generally brings. If Rockefeller runs the race that way, it will be interesting, to say the least.

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### Cyclists Touring Club Plans Tour

The Medford Cyclists Touring club will hold its first tour starting at 1 o'clock this afternoon, a club spokesman said. The newly organized group will tour the Medford area. An organizational meeting was held recently and Bill Small was elected president. Club members voted to affiliate with the Amateur Bicycle League of America. Purpose of the club is to offer opportunities of cycling in groups for all ages, the spokesman said. The cyclists are planning tours next summer and hope to make overnight tours. On other trips they will take their cars to distant points and travel around an area on their bicycles. Persons interested in joining the club should contact Bill Small at Spring 2-6668.

### Two Appear in District Court

Frank D. Clinton, 42, Klamath Falls, pleaded guilty in district court Thursday to charges of obtaining money under false pretenses. Sentencing was continued until Dec. 21. William Edward Fox, 31, of 3000 Tolman Creek rd., Ashland, appeared in district court on charges of malicious and wanton injury to personal property and was bound over to the grand jury. Fox is charged with damaging a car from a used car lot in Fresno, Calif., and defacing the motor number.

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Pensacola, Fla. - (UPI) - Burglars broke open a window to get into a wrecking company office here and left this note when they found the door had been unlocked all along: "Nice trick. Did not know the door was open until got ready to leave. Sorry."

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