

UPI Chief Probes Nixon's Role As GOP Dark Horse

Editor's Note: The name of Richard M. Nixon is heard more and more often in speculation about possible dark horses for the Republican presidential nomination. In the following dispatch, UPI's chief Washington political reporter, tells of his conversations with various GOP leaders about Nixon's prospects.

By RAYMOND M. LAHR
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Richard M. Nixon is emerging as a prospect for the 1964 Republican presidential nomination because of a widespread belief in GOP ranks that Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York cannot win it.

Rockefeller still could surprise the Republican professionals and stay alive by winning one or more key presidential primary contests next year against Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

If he fails, many Republicans expect Nixon to become the man behind whom anti-Goldwater sentiment can unite.

"Those who want someone less conservative than Goldwater are looking at Nixon," UPI was told by one party leader who maintains contact with the former vice president.

Nixon Not Eager

"My impression is that he is not eager to get into it, but he's aware that he can be shoved into it if a stalemate develops."

Other Republicans suspect that Nixon is eager for a return match with President Kennedy despite his defeat in 1960 and his poor showing against Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown in California last year.

Conservatism A Handicap

The answer is that there are Republicans who believe that Goldwater's brand of conservatism is too strong to win a na-

tional election or lead their state tickets to victory.

Regardless of whether they like Rockefeller's brand of Republicanism, they fear that the New Yorker is carrying on a hopeless quest. Since his marriage last May, public opinion polls have put Rockefeller in a long-shot role behind the pace-setting Goldwater.

Meantime the Goldwater opposition sees no chance to develop an effective challenge while Rockefeller is the only active competitor against the Arizona senator.

"As long as he stays in, he's just handing it to Goldwater," said one party leader.

Doubts About Rocky

Another doubt that Rockefeller is so much opposed to Goldwater that he would throw his weight behind another candidate.

Rockefeller agents have spread assurances that the governor—although unannounced—is in the pre-convention battle to the end. By this they say they mean from the New Hampshire primary March 10 to the California primary June 2.

Some Republicans believe he

will carry the fight right up to the convention in July. Others expect him to throw in the towel if he loses to Goldwater in New Hampshire.

Nixon has been getting attention as a possible compromise candidate since he began speaking on national issues, breaking the long silence he maintained after his defeat for the California governorship.

He also is in a strategic position. Goldwater opponents would rally around him at a relatively late date because he already has national stature and would not need the buildup necessary for a more obscure figure.

In this connection, some prominent Republicans believe Nixon could not make an open bid for the nomination in advance of the convention. There are still

Republican professionals bitter about his conduct of the 1960 campaign, that might turn on him if he became an avowed contender.

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Accident Kills 8 Members Of Oregon Migrant Family

By United Press International

One of the worst traffic accidents in New Mexico history killed the father and seven children of an Oregon migrant family early Sunday.

Oregon traffic accidents took the lives of three other residents during the weekend. Another man died of accidental burns and one was electrocuted at a Wyoming construction project.

A car pulling a small trailer

collided head-on with a truck on U.S. Highway 666 about 36 miles north of Gallup, N.M., in the pre-dawn darkness Sunday.

The crash killed Luz B. Garcia, 37, and seven of his 10 children—Noelia, 16; Odellia, 13; Irma, 11; Vivano, 8; Lupe, 5; Mercedes, 4, and Rojello, 1.

The mother and the other three children were injured, none of them critically. So was the truck driver, William D. Wakefield, 43, Aztec, N.M.

The Garcia family's last permanent address was Nyssa, Ore. Friends said Garcia is a d farmer in Malheur County for five years and managed a tavern at Adrian three of those years. The family was on its way to visit Mrs. Garcia's relatives in Texas.

Another accident east of Portland Sunday night killed William Wardrip, 21, and Wayne Wilkams, 19, both of Portland.

Multnomah County sheriff's deputies said their car left skid marks for 430 feet before hitting a tree.

Mark Ellis Nelson, 20, and Richard A. Cox, both of Portland, were hospitalized with injuries.

Ramona Belez, 21, Milwaukie, was killed in that city when her car was struck by a Southern Pacific passenger train Saturday.

Lloyd Long, a 61-year-old transient, died in a Portland hospital Saturday after suffering burns on most of his body. Police said he was sleeping under an approach to the Steel Bridge and apparently rolled into a fire he had built to keep himself warm.

Michael Nolen, 20, Klamath Falls, was electrocuted on a missile base construction site near Pine Bluffs, Wyo., Saturday. He was cranking an auxiliary boom to set up floodlights when it brushed an overhead power line.

Foes Vow To Back Initiative

PORTLAND (UPI) — The Young Democratic Clubs of Oregon and the Young Republican Federation of Oregon have promised bi-partisan backing for an initiative campaign to amend the Oregon Constitution to require single-seat legislative districts.

The proposal would divide all multi-seat legislative districts into single-seat districts.

The initiative campaign, announced by the Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce at a recent annual meeting, received endorsement by Janes McLennan, Portland, president of the Young Democrats, and Robert Bell, Milwaukie, president of the Young Republicans.

The two explained that the present Oregon system has one senatorial district with eight senators while a dozen other districts have only one senator apiece.

A ballot title is being prepared by the attorney general's office, they said.

Bell Ringers Need Egg Aid

WELLS, England (UPI)—The bishop of Wells issued an appeal Sunday for fertile swans eggs to bolster his flock of bell-ringing birds.

For centuries, a flock of white swans has inhabited the moat around the walled bishop's palace in this historic cathedral town.

But the flock, which rings a bell at feeding time, is in danger of dying out, Bishop Edward Henderson said.

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