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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 10, 1975

Dick Cheney -

The attached was returned in the
President's outbox.

Jim Connor

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney

Can we get this
pull from this article.

★ Why Ford decides to jump into primaries

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R. Schlesinger. He acted because he needed a "comfortable feeling" among his advisers, he said.

• A source close to Vice-President Nelson A. Rockefeller said that by withdrawing himself as a candidate for the No. 2 spot on the GOP ticket next year, Mr. Rockefeller had put himself into a "better" position. "Nothing has happened" as far as Mr. Rockefeller is concerned, the source said. The Vice-President might run for the White House himself if Mr. Reagan topples Mr. Ford — or he might be offered the No. 2 spot by Mr. Ford anyway, and accept it.

• Further evidence of significant Reagan strength within the GOP came in a poll by the National Observer. The 2,696 delegates to the 1972 GOP convention were polled; about one-third replied. Asked if Mr. Ford should be nominated next year, 63.7 percent of those

responding said yes, and 36.3 percent said no. Almost 89 percent of those who said no preferred Mr. Reagan.

On NBC-TV, Mr. Ford reversed a previous impression that he had acted completely alone in making his Cabinet shuffle. He said that "in one way or another" he got "advice," but that he had not asked for it. Whether this clarifies his earlier position remains to be seen.

Despite his recognition of the threat posed by Mr. Reagan, Mr. Ford is privately confident he can win in both New Hampshire and Florida, sources say. He believes GOP voters in those states will not want to split the party and lead to a certain Democratic victory in November.

Mr. Ford is seen as seeking to convey a confident attitude, rather than being on the defense against Mr. Reagan.

Speaking in Boston at the weekend, Mr. Ford pledged to fight in New Hampshire as

well as in Massachusetts, and to win. Massachusetts Republican leaders interpreted his remarks as anticipation of a tough challenge from Mr. Reagan.

Meanwhile, the source close to Mr. Rockefeller says:

"Nothing has happened as far as Rocky is concerned — except his position is better. And he knows it. He worked out all the details. A brilliant move. It's from him, and he knew its full implication."

"See how it goes," the informant went on. "To the President, it has to look as though Rocky is falling all over himself to fight off Reagan and the right wing. And, of course, it has some of this effect."

"He does this — and yet he is still there. He still is the Vice-President."

"If I were Donald Rumsfeld, I would stay awake nights worrying about what Rockefeller might say about him. Rocky is much more

his own man now. And he's going to stay there. You can be sure of that.

"He'll have some things to say about Rumsfeld. At the right time. Maybe while till things quiet about. And he has some things to say about [Howard] Callaway, too. You wait and see. Anyway, both better be worried about it."

This informant emphasized Mr. Rockefeller's poise and confidence at this time. How happy he is over his decision portrayed a Vice-President who saw gaining not losing ground politically completely certain that this was true.

The Reagan strength in the Observer poll is significant because the 1972 delegates offer a valid test of Republican Party members' current sentiment nationwide.

Many of these same delegates elected to the 1976 convention; even now they are almost certain to be chosen by essentially the same party faithful who chose them four years earlier.

★ Credits for elderly included in tax act

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If this provision of the bill is not reported, it would result in a \$15-million rebate from the government to Texas business. H. Ross Perot, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday. Mr. Perot made contributions to 12 Ways and Means committee members, 10 of whom voted for the provision which would give him the tax break for one person in U.S. history.

The bill also would extend and enlarge reduced income tax withholding rates that went into effect last May.

Without congressional action, the reduction will expire Dec. 31 and payroll withholding rates would go into effect Jan. 1, 1976.

Other amendments which made

