

The original documents are located in Box 25, folder “Rockefeller, Nelson - Media Reaction to his Nomination as VP” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/21/74

JtH:

Here is the summary of world-
wide press reaction to the
Rockefeller nomination,
hot off the presses.

ATF



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON 20547

ROCKEFELLER VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

Summary

Comment from a broad political spectrum of foreign media sources today applauded President Ford's nomination of Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President of the United States.

--London's conservative Daily Telegraph judged it "all in all, a choice America's allies can welcome," and the liberal Manchester Guardian declared that "the President has shown sound judgment."

--Right-center Die Welt of Hamburg called it "good news," for "a Vice President with prestige, dynamism, experience and world-wide contacts is most urgently needed." Independent Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger said, "Ford has chosen an experienced politician with world-wide prestige."

--Center-right Aurore of Paris predicted that "the Vice President--perhaps for the first time in American history--will not be a figure-head..."

--Liberal independent Asahi of Tokyo reported Japanese opinion that Mr. Rockefeller would "greatly contribute" to smooth U.S.-Japan relations.

--Independent Yediot Aharonot of Tel Aviv looked with satisfaction on the prospect that Mr. Rockefeller might check the "hasty initiatives of the U.S. Secretary of State."

--Beirut's anti-left independent an-Nahar called the nomination "Ford's wisest and best accomplishment."

Limited comment from Soviet and East European media noted but did not stress the nominee's connections with major capitalist targets of Communist propaganda, preferring to underline Mr. Rockefeller's support of "steps taken by the governments of the USSR and the U.S. toward improving their mutual relations."

August 21, 1974

Hamburg: "Good News... Foreign Policy Continuity"

West German media called Mr. Rockefeller a strong personality who would contribute stability and foreign policy experience to the new Administration.

Right-center Die Welt of Hamburg carried a byliner's assertion that "the nomination of Rockefeller is good news. Now that an unknown man has succeeded a strong President, a Vice President with prestige, dynamism, experience and world-wide contacts is most urgently needed. All these qualifications are associated with the name of Rockefeller."

He added that "Rockefeller's nomination also represents very welcome support for the Secretary of State. Those who hoped for continuity in U.S. policy will be encouraged by Ford's decision..."

"Can Help Fight Inflation"

Washington correspondent Juergen Kramer of independent Stuttgarter Zeitung wrote today, "That Ford has chosen so strong a personality is reassuring. Rockefeller lends the new Administration stability.... His intimate relations with the American business world will help Ford combat inflation."

"World-wide Prestige With Allies and Others"

Independent Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger of Cologne said, "Ford has chosen an experienced politician with world-wide prestige. In most countries the future Vice President is much better known than Ford, who must have taken this into consideration. Ford is particularly anxious to secure the confidence of his compatriots, but also that of the allies and other negotiating partners."

TV: "Stands for Rejection of Isolationism"

A commentator on West German television declared last night that "Ford's choice... stands for the rejection of American isolationism.... The multinational companies with which Rockefeller is closely linked have always made a policy of internationalism, to such an extent that official White House policy has often had trouble keeping up.... A U. S. leadership consisting of domestically oriented Ford, and with Henry and Nancy Kissinger and Rockefeller as foreign specialists is certainly not a bad thing for the Americans."

Paris: "He Discovered Kissinger"

French comment predicted a Ford-Rockefeller ticket in the 1976 election, expected Mr. Rockefeller to make his "strong personality" felt as Vice President, and saw significance for U.S. foreign affairs in the long-standing relationship between him and Secretary Kissinger.

Washington correspondent Adalbert de Segonzac remarked today in pro-Gaullist France-Soir that "foreign policy holds no secrets for Rockefeller: He has always been keenly interested in the subject. It was he who 'discovered' Henry Kissinger and made him his adviser long before Nixon 'stole him away.'"

De Segonzac said some of the President's advisers had been hostile to the choice of Mr. Rockefeller, fearing that "his strong personality would eclipse that of the Chief Executive" and that he might "form a team with Kissinger to pull all the strings from backstage.

"The President's rejection of their arguments shows the self-assurance he has acquired in just eleven days in office."

Center-right Aurore of Paris carried byliner Philippe Bernert's assertion that "Kissinger and Rockefeller have remained bound together by an identity of mind and opinions. Because of this, the Vice President--perhaps for the first time in American history--will not be a figurehead but will pull vital strings."

Communist Paper: "The Real Rulers of America"

Communist Humanite of Paris sounded a classic propaganda note:

"To be a principal beneficiary of the profits of Standard Oil and the Chase Manhattan Bank... is an unbeatable qualification in Mr. Ford's eyes... Those are the real rulers of America: the oil and banking moguls, the steel kings, the masters of multinational conglomerates, the owners of fortunes amassed through the exploitation and destitution of hundreds of millions of people in the U.S. and, above all, in their immense Latin American, Asian, African and even European-American empire."

London: "A Shrewd Choice"

The nomination led most British papers and radio and television newscasts. Limited comment was virtually unanimous in approving the choice.

The independent Financial Times called it "a shrewd choice...likely to help President Ford in his task of healing the national strains of Watergate..."

The conservative Daily Telegraph considered it "all in all, a choice America's allies can welcome."

"Some Responsibility for International Problems?"

In the opinion of the liberal Guardian of Manchester and London, "the President has shown sound judgment..."

"Given the close relationship which already exists between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Rockefeller, and given Mr. Ford's unfamiliarity with foreign affairs, it would seem appropriate to let Mr. Rockefeller take over responsibility for some international problems."

"Can Help in Domestic Affairs"

The independent Times of London said, "Mr. Rockefeller has the talents and experience to be an 'assistant President' usefully employed in overseeing domestic affairs. If President Ford is willing to delegate authority to Mr. Rockefeller, he is a shrewder man than many Americans were willing to give him credit for."

London's conservative Daily Mail declared: "Gerald Ford has had a good first ten days in the White House. Yesterday he picked far and away the best man for the job of Vice President."

Vienna: "Needed to Heal Wounds of Watergate"

Washington correspondent Marlene Manthey wrote today in independent Die Presse of Vienna that Mr. Rockefeller's "nomination is the medicine his party and the country now need to heal the wounds of Watergate."

Semi-official Wiener Zeitung assumed that President Ford "sees in Nelson Rockefeller the support that will enable him fully and competently to exercise his office, which has been shaken by Watergate and Nixon's turbulent exit."

Rome Radio: "May Deal Substantively With Foreign Policy"

Italian media generally hailed Rockefeller as a good choice.

State-run radio speculated that President Ford "may want Mr. Rockefeller to deal substantively with foreign policy because of his previous experience and friendship with Mr. Kissinger."

Amsterdam: "Confirms Nixon-Kissinger Policy Course"

Independent conservative De Telegraaf of Amsterdam asserted today that "this nomination gives the world the best guarantee that the successful Nixon-Kissinger course in U.S. foreign policy will be pursued."

"Broad International Experience"

Algemeen Dagblad of Rotterdam and Het Vaderland of The Hague, both independent conservative, carried an editorial stating that "with the nomination of Rockefeller, President Ford has assured a balanced combination at the top.

"Ford's own limited international experience will now be compensated for by a Vice President who has gained broad international experience in various Government functions..."

"With Ford and Rockefeller at the helm, the U.S. ship of state will certainly follow a favorable course far from the mudbanks of Watergate."

Stockholm: "Comes Well-Prepared"

Conservative Svenska Dagbladet of Stockholm, saying Mr. Rockefeller "comes to the job well-prepared," observed that "with a President with a clear conscience...with a pragmatist like Rockefeller and a Kissinger now inclined to stop playing the constant fireman, the White House can achieve a more uniform and consistent team than in Nixon's time."

On the other hand, liberal Dagens Nyheter said the choice of Mr. Rockefeller "lacks originality and indicates no will for reassessment and farsightedness."

Tokyo TV: "Will Influence Foreign Policy"

Japanese commentators expressed satisfaction at the nomination of Mr. Rockefeller and predicted that he would help maintain good relations between the U. S. and Japan.

Publicly financed NHK television declared that because Mr. Rockefeller has been "a prominent figure in the international political arena for such a long time" and because he "once had Dr. Kissinger under his wing as foreign affairs adviser," there was no doubt that he "will have great influence on President Ford's foreign policy strategy."

Commercial NTV remarked that "with the nomination of Mr. Rockefeller as Vice President, President Ford can now put the shaky administration he has inherited from Mr. Nixon on the right track."

"Has Many Friends in Japan"

Independent liberal Asahi, reporting today that Foreign Ministry sources welcomed the nomination of Mr. Rockefeller, said sources there pointed out that Mr. Rockefeller, unlike President Ford, has many friends in Japanese political and business circles and therefore "will greatly contribute" to keeping relations smooth between Japan and the U. S.

Taiwan Report

Agence France-Presse reported today from Taipei that Nationalist Chinese observers "welcomed the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller as U.S. Vice President with reservations because of the tremendous interest of the Chase Manhattan Bank in getting into mainland China."

A Bangkok View

The pro-U. S. Bangkok World held today that Mr. Rockefeller's nomination "is entirely compatible with the policies of President Ford. Both favor a strong defense and decentralization of government..."

Adding that Mr. Ford "is clearly emphasizing government at the present, rather than the party and the future," the paper pointed out that Mr. Rockefeller "is someone who could step into the Presidency tomorrow if need be rather than someone to be groomed for future leadership."

New Delhi: "Toward Ideological Balance"

The independent, conservative Hindustan Times of New Delhi maintained today that Mr. Rockefeller's appointment would "almost certainly strengthen the Ford Administration by imparting to it an ideological balance and much additional prestige."

"Supplements Foreign Affairs Experience"

The independent moderate Statesman of Calcutta and New Delhi today carried a Washington correspondent's view that the Rockefeller nomination "emphasizes President Ford's determination to supplement his own lack of experience in both administration and foreign affairs."

The correspondent speculated that there was a "possibility" that Mr. Rockefeller could "overshadow" President Ford, but pointed out that "power rests in the hands of the U.S. President, and the only power granted to the Vice President under the Constitution is the relatively ceremonial job of presiding over the U.S. Senate."

Tel Aviv: "His Help Can Be Sought"

Israeli media were pleased with the nomination. Editorials expressed confidence that the new team would successfully pursue U.S. internal and international affairs.

Independent Yediot Aharonot of Tel Aviv was quoted by the Jerusalem radio as saying that there was no doubt that the new Vice President would endorse the policy of Dr. Kissinger, but it was also clear that he is a friend of Israel whose help could be sought to check the "hasty initiatives of the U.S. Secretary of State."

Beirut: "Ford's Wisest and Best Move"

Independent anti-left an-Nahar of Beirut stated today that the nomination "is Ford's wisest and best accomplishment since declaring that the current foreign policy would continue."

The paper added, "The two steps complement each other, for Mr. Rockefeller's foreign reputation, his knowledge of international affairs and his liberal outlook on world affairs all affirm the White House's intention of continuing the open-door policy and the policy of international detente, all this with the help of the Vice President and Dr. Kissinger..."

"In spite of what has been said of Mr. Rockefeller's former Zionist inclinations before and during his governorship of New York, he still remains the representative of the liberal faction in the Republican party, which is closer to the Arabs. He is also the representative of money and oil, which are Arab weapons valued by Rockefeller's large family and by the even larger American family."

"Most Knowledgeable About Middle East"

The Pro-U.S. Daily Star of Beirut said today that "the choice of Mr. Rockefeller must be seen as a lucky break," because he "headed the list of Vice Presidential hopefuls in knowledge of the Middle East and in support of the pursuance of an evenhanded policy vis-a-vis the Arabs and Israel."

Panamanian Headlines

Papers in Panama City ran wire service accounts of the nomination and photos. There were no editorials.

Independent La Estrella de Panama headlined a Reuters story, "A More Concrete Policy Toward Latin America." Its sister Star & Herald ran the head, "Rocky: Symbol of Conflict and Cooperation With Latin America" over a wire service article.

Only pro-Government tabloid Critica gave the story less than favorable treatment; over a story from the Spanish EFE wire service it ran a four-column headline in red: "Rockefeller in Trouble: Congress Could Reject Him."

Buenos Aires TV: Heavy News Play

Argentine television gave the nomination heavy news play, using wirephotos of Mr. Rockefeller with President Ford. Radio provided straight coverage.

Moscow Cites Rockefeller on U. S.- USSR Relations

Soviet and East European media reported the Rockefeller nomination promptly. (TASS carried its first report barely ten minutes after the President's announcement.)

Limited comment has noted but not stressed the nominee's connections with some of the biggest capitalist targets of the Communist propaganda of other times. It has, rather, pointed out his endorsement of "steps taken by the governments of the USSR and the U. S. toward improving their mutual relations" and said he "noted that those steps were having a beneficial effect on the international situation" (Moscow Radio domestic service, last evening).

Budapest television declared that by choosing Mr. Rockefeller the President showed that he "could only conceive of the exercise of political power in terms of firm cooperation with big American capital" but did not belabor the point. It suggested that Mr. Ford "soon may not be able to escape his Vice President's shadow."

East Berlin: "Spoke for Coexistence, Detente"

The Voice of the GDR (East Berlin domestic service) last evening broadcast a commentary calling Mr. Rockefeller "one of the realistic minded politicians within the American haute bourgeoisie," a man of "many political careers" whose "main interest has always been foreign policy."

The commentator said Mr. Rockefeller's role as adviser to American Presidents "shows...that the Rockefeller dynasty, with its strong interests outside the U. S., was carefully making sure...that it was present when White House decisions were made" and when it was recognized in the U. S. that American foreign policy was not prevailing in Vietnam and elsewhere, "the influence of that wing of the American bourgeoisie which appreciated the challenge of more realistic views became more noticeable.

"Nelson Rockefeller can be considered a representative of these realistic minded currents. He spoke in favor of relations of coexistence with the Soviet Union...

"Since the new American President, in his first speech to Congress, put the main stress on preserving the continuity of American foreign policy, the choice of his Vice President allows one to conclude after all that he feels duty bound to those priorities, especially in view of a strong tendency among the American people to judge the policy of detente to be the only way."

Hanoi Treatment

Hanoi Radio reported selection of the "oil king and former Governor of New York State as Vice President" and concluded: "With Rockefeller, the influence of the millionaires will become stronger at the White House. However, for the people, the two leaders of their country are not attractive."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 21

To: Jerry terHorst

From: James R. Holland

FYI--editorial reaction

to the Rockefeller nomination.

AUG 22 1974

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

Wall Street
Journal

8

THE

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Mr. Ford Gets Rolling

SOLD

Ford commits presidency to activism, worries foes

By HENRY L. TREWHITT

Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Political fortune granted President Ford a rare opportunity yesterday and he made the most of it.

With one stroke, the nomination of Nelson A. Rockefeller for vice president, Mr. Ford committed himself to a surprising activist presidency

not see himself as a half-term, unelected President. For the President to suggest otherwise, of course, would leave his administration highly vulnerable to attack by both the Democrats and ambitious Republicans.

None the less, the selection of Mr. Rockefeller gave great

latter made his most determined run for the presidency.

It now becomes one of the ironies of Mr. Rockefeller's career that he must depend on Democrats to put him in direct line to the presidency. Confirmation appears certain, though the Democrats may succumb to their own temptations and

Balt.
Sun
8/21/74

THE  SUN

A 14

BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1974

Nominator and Nominee

5010

6-Part II

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1974

L.A. TIMES

5010

An Excellent Choice

The New York Times

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1926-1955

ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1955-1961

OWEN ROSENBERG, Publisher 1961-1963

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER

Publisher

JAMES RESTON, Vice President

JOHN B. OAKES, Editorial Page Editor

A. H. RASKIN, Assistant Editorial Page Editor

A. M. ROSENTHAL, Managing Editor

SEYMOUR TOPPING, Assistant Managing Editor

MAX FRANKEL, Sunday Editor

JACK ROSENTHAL, Assistant Sunday Editor

CHARLOTTE GRIFFIN, Assistant Editor

CLYTON DANIEL, Assistant Editor

TOM WICKER, Associate Editor

The Rockefeller Choice

In his final years in Albany, responding to those repeated failures, Mr. Rockefeller made a calculated effort to mollify his conservative antagonists and to

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Rockefeller Nomination

EX-GOVERNOR IS ENERGETIC YET ENIGMATIC

Ford and Rockefeller: a Topsy-Turvy Team

L.A. TIMES 8/21/74

BY ROBERT J. DONOVAN

Times Associate Editor

mous family. "You have to think in terms of the De Medicis and the Rothschilds and a few rare clans to come close to savoring

have begun on television as to whether Rockefeller is a liberal or a conservative. reminds me of a lesson once driven home

HEW Regions

Boston

All papers were favorable with the exception of the Manchester Union Leader. The Governor of NH was not happy about the choice.

Atlanta

Journal said it was "excellent choice"

Constitution said "a good choice, perhaps the best choice"

Dallas

Morning News was generally negative but said "let's wait and see"

Times Herald was extremely supportive

Denver

general approval

one paper said he had "excellent abilities"

San Francisco

Chronicle said "Rocky's a wise choice"

Seattle

Post Intelligencer gave general approval but was not laudatory

Times had no editorial on this subject

Philadelphia

Evening Bulletin said "good choice"

So it's Rocky after all

Wednesday, August 21, 1974

The Monitor's view

Christian Sci. Mon.

It's Rockefeller

8/21/74

In calling Nelson Rockefeller a Rockefeller, top of course. For as

DAILY NEWS

229 East 42d St.

NEW YORK'S SECOND NEWSPAPER

(212) NY 2-1224

AUGUST 23, 1976

Published daily except Sunday by New York News, Inc., 229 East 42d St., New York, N.Y. 10017. F. M. Flynn, Chairman; W. H. James, President and Publisher; Floyd Berger, Executive Editor and Sr. Vice Pres.; V. J. Palmer, Secretary; and R. J. Rohrbach, Treas.

Mail subscription rates per year: U.S. Daily and Sunday \$79.50; Daily \$67.50; Sunday \$26.00. Armed Forces Special Rates: Daily and Sunday \$53.50; Daily \$36.00; Sunday \$17.50. Foreign and short term rates upon request.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all local news printed in this paper. All other republication rights are reserved.

MR. FORD'S CHOSEN PARTNER

ROCKEFELLER'S ROLE

—will be in the Ford administration. But we found it both

New Men, New Mood

By James Reston

PARIS

PARIS, AUG. 20

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8/23

JH4

Jerry -

just received

Andrew

Latin American Media Reaction to

ROCKEFELLER NOMINATION AS VICE PRESIDENT

Latin American media generally gave Mr. Rockefeller's nomination top play and ran extensive background pieces and biographical sketches.

Gratification with the President's action in naming a man long associated with inter-American affairs outweighed reservations arising from Mr. Rockefeller's identification with major financial and business interests.

Commentators looked to Mr. Rockefeller to "speed up the 'new dialogue' opened by Kissinger" (TV-Globo network, Brazil), noting that he was expected to be "a factor of some influence in formulation of U.S. foreign policy" (El Universal, Mexico).

* * *

Mexico

Left-of-center El Universal headed its lead story: "Designation of Rockefeller Promises Era of Closer Relations with Latin America." It predicted that as Vice President Mr. Rockefeller would be "a factor of some influence in formulation of U.S. foreign policy." A cartoon titled "The Godfather" showed a huge Rockefeller holding in his arms a tiny Ford who says, "I want to present the new Vice President."

In front-page headlines, mass-appeal La Prensa noted that Mr. Rockefeller "Shows Much Interest in Latin America," and conservative El Heraldo forecast that "Rockefeller Will Initiate a New Era in U.S. Relations with Latin America." The latter carried the suggestion of columnist Gustavo Rodriguez that power in the U.S. has already shifted to "another group" and that "the power behind the throne may rest in the Vice Presidency and Rockefeller may be a President without the title."

Brazil

Substantial coverage of the nomination on Brazilian television included a TV-Globo network commentator's observation that "Nelson Rockefeller is an old friend of our hemisphere, where he came for the first time in the Thirties and to which he has since made countless visits." He judged that the designation "might tend to speed up the 'new dialogue' opened by Kissinger. Also, being in the number two position of the Administration,

Rockefeller now has an opportunity to put into effect the new era of cooperation he recommended five years ago in his 'Rockefeller Mission Report.' "

Newspapers gave the story top play and mentioned a report that Senator Mike Mansfield had said the President might soon send Mr. Rockefeller on a Latin America tour, "taking advantage of his sound knowledge of our hemisphere" (Jornal do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro).

Business-oriented Gazeta Mercantil of Sao Paulo called the nomination "auspicious not only for Brazil but for Latin America in general" and said Mr. Rockefeller "may offer an important contribution to the 'new dialogue' that Nixon tried to begin with Latin America. "

The liberal Jornal de Brasilia front-paged an article by a correspondent on the weekly newsmagazine Veja who worked for Mr. Rockefeller when he was Coordinator for Inter-American Affairs. He recalled the nominee as "an absolutely sincere man...endowed with a great deal of public spirit and creative enthusiasm. He was above all a liberal, and I am glad to see that he has not changed in 32 years...He attributed great significance to the political position of Brazil in Latin America. "

Venezuela

Independent-left El Nacional of Caracas ran a photograph of President Ford with Mr. Rockefeller under the headline, "Authentic Equality Without Pressure or Domination Stressed by President Perez in His Message of Congratulations. "

Inside, the paper carried a portrait of Mr. Rockefeller, a press release prepared for a 1969 Rockefeller visit to Venezuela and several background pieces.

Moderate, business-oriented El Universal recommended, "Congress Should Approve Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President. " Among several backgrounders and wire service stories was an Agence France-Presse report on "Reactions in Diplomatic Circles" stating that "according to some, the presence of the multimillionaire intimately tied to Latin America--Venezuela in particular--constitutes a guarantee of a new policy that should be beneficial to that part of the world. "

Peru

The recently expropriated Lima papers gave the story front-page play. Headlines stressed Mr. Rockefeller's wealth: "Ford Names a Super-

Rich Man as Vice President" (Ojo); "...Owner of Esso and Large Landowner in Venezuela and Brazil" (Expreso). Both are pro-Government.

Expreso declared, "Latin America Expects Very Little From Rocky. "