

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 21, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Richard T. Burress

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Governor Rockefeller

I accompanied Governor Rockefeller on his visits to the offices of Senator Javits, Senator Buckley, Senator Cannon (Chairman, Senate Rules Committee), Congressman Rodino (Chairman, House Judiciary Committee), Congressman Hutchinson (Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee), and Congressman Robison (Dean of the New York Delegation). In addition, short impromptu visits were made with Henry Smith, Del Latta and Jack Wydler.

The Governor was very warmly received and assurances of a prompt but thorough investigation and hearing were made by Chairman Cannon and Chairman Rodino.

Although the order of procedure is not clearly established, it appears that the Senate hearings will come first. The Senate will be back a week earlier from its short recess and I received the distinct impression that Chairman Cannon was pressing hard to be first, whereas Rodino is more relaxed.

Neither hearing can be held until the F. B. I. investigation has been completed and the basic Rockefeller financial data is received. I am meeting with the Rockefeller lawyers and accountants to give them what guidance I can on their filings.

Two questions have already surfaced and others will follow. One is with respect to the public disclosure of tax returns. I do not believe the Governor wants to make his returns available to the public. This



was not done during your confirmation hearings although, of course, such returns were made available to the Committee. The overall financial statement was made a part of the public record.

The second question deals with divestiture and/or the necessity to place stock, the ownership of which raises possible conflict of interest problems, in a blind trust. The law on this is not clear. Cabinet Officers and other Presidential Appointees have been required to do this, i.e. Dave Packard, Wally Hickle, and Alan Greenspan. However, a Vice Presidential nominee raises a different set of questions and value judgements.

*What do Congress say?*

In their conversation, Chairman Cannon went into this to some degree and the newspaper and T. V. people posed questions on this subject during the interviews which were conducted after every stop. However, Senators Tower and Sparkman and John Rhodes have questioned the wisdom or necessity of such a requirement.

Perhaps one of the most controversial subjects that will be raised in the hearings is the abortion issue. The right to life people picketed the Governor when he was at the Senate Office Building. As Governor Rockefeller vetoed a bill to repeal the State's abortion law.

*Details before Press Conf.*

The question of the Governor's campaigning during the interim period also needs resolving at a very early date. The requests are pouring in so a decision has to be made as to whether he will make campaign appearances and, if so, what kinds of appearances should be scheduled.

*M.R. of Dean Burch*

