

Rocky calls for immediate nomination hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nelson A. Rockefeller has called for immediate hearings by the two congressional committees probing his nomination as vice president, saying he is being tried in the press without a chance to present all the

facts. Rockefeller aides said the former New York governor telephoned Senate Rules Committee Chairman Howard W. Cannon in Las Vegas and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. in

Washington on Tuesday. He urged Cannon to reconvene the Senate hearings "tomorrow, Wednesday morning if possible — and certainly before the end of the week," aides said. A spokesman for Cannon said no

hearings were planned for Wednesday and the senator had made no plans to meet with the committee. A spokesman for Rockefeller said earlier that Cannon agreed to poll his committee on whether a resumption of hearings would be possible

this week. The request had been disclosed by President Ford inadvertently an hour earlier. Ford mentioned it to Senate Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd at a bill-signing ceremony while the two were standing near a

live microphone, and newsmen overheard his comments. Rockefeller said in a statement: "My nomination is being tried in the press and not before the appropriate committees of Congress, without my having the opportunity to present all the facts."

"This is being done on the basis of selective leaks from my income tax returns and gift tax returns, all of which were submitted to the committees in confidence," Rockefeller said. The House committee has been conducting an inquiry into the Rockefeller nominations and the Senate panel is considering reopening its earlier hearings, but neither had been expected to hold hearings until after the November elections. Republicans on the Senate committee also urged speedy hearings Tuesday. Earlier in the day Ford expressed complete faith in the integrity of Rockefeller. A White House spokesman said Ford fully supports Rockefeller and "has complete faith in Gov. Rockefeller's integrity." But Byrd commented that a 1970 campaign biography of Arthur Goldberg "is pretty reminiscent of the dirty tricks of the Nixon era." Goldberg was Rockefeller's gubernatorial opponent in New York that year, and the book was financed by Rockefeller's brother, Laurance.

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Ford economic menu offers 10-course meal

KANSAS CITY (AP) — President Ford presented a 12-point program for Americans to become voluntary inflation fighters and energy savers Tuesday night.

He warned Congress that if it doesn't accept the "marshmallows" in his economic proposals he may come back with "some tough turkey."

Ford followed up last week's economic speech to Congress in a speech to the Future Farmers of America FFA convention and to the nation by television, calling on citizens to postpone unnecessary borrowing, save more, shop for bargains and drive more slowly.

"Believe you me, all of us here tonight, we are going to bite the bullet," Ford was assured by Mark Mayfield, president of the 500,000-member organization.

Ford said Americans are already responding to his call to battle inflation, declaring "a great citizens' mobilization has begun and is beginning to roll," while chiding lawmakers and other critics for their lukewarm response to his proposals.

Noting that some said he had offered "only a marshmallow" instead of asking the nation to "bite the bullet," Ford declared that Congress rejected a proposed delay in federal pay raises and hasn't "shown much appetite for the other 'marshmallows' in my latest message" that included a 5 per cent surtax.

"But if they don't like my menu, I may be back with some tough turkey," the President said, adding, "I sense that the American people are

hungry for some tougher stuff to chew tonight."

Earlier Tuesday, the White house asked the major television and radio networks for free time to carry Ford's speech after they decided against broadcasting it as a news event.

All major radio and television networks decided later to broadcast the address.

In his speech, Ford called for creation of local citizens' action committees, including labor and management representatives in every community to report by Thanksgiving "which plants, stores or other enterprises are doing the best job of holding the line on costs and prices."

He said he would then award them flags bearing the anti-inflation "WIN" emblem — "Whip Inflation Now" — to individuals, companies and other groups that fight inflation and save energy.

He also urged every governor to form a statewide "WIN Committee" to coordinate the voluntary anti-inflation efforts and said this will "lead to greater civic efforts by millions of Americans and a focused awareness of what directions public policy should take toward economic justice for all."

Ford warned the country that "we will not be out of the economic trenches by Christmas." But he said, "Every battle in history has been won by the side that has held on just five minutes longer."

In listing ways ordinary citizens can fight inflation, the President added two recommendations — reduce waste and guard health — to

the 10 points recommended by his Citizens' Action Committee to Fight Inflation headed by columnist Sylvia Porter.

Its 10 recommendations are: —"Bring budgeting back in style" by balancing family budgets and expecting government officials to do the same. —Postpone unnecessary borrow-

ing and wait for interest rates to come down "as they will."

—"Save as much as you can — and watch your money grow."

—"Conserve energy" by observing the 55-mile speed limit using public transit and car pools and walking more.

—"Business and labor should only raise prices or wages to the extent that costs or services absolutely require."

—"Insist on productivity improvements where you work" to waste less time and material.

—"Shop wisely, look for bargains... and brag about the fact you are a bargain hunter."

—"Work to eliminate "outmoded regulations that keep costs of goods and services high and to enforce regulations that advance efficiency, health and safety."

—"Plant WIN gardens for yourself or within your community" and pool other skills.

—"Assist recycling programs and reuse scrap materials."

Jordan still unsure on Rocky vote

HOUSTON (AP) — Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Tex., says she has not decided how she will vote on Nelson Rockefeller's nomination as vice president but that his cash gifts to aides and public officials "raise serious questions."

"A little conflict of interest for a vice president doesn't make much difference, but it would make a great deal of difference for a president," said the Houston member of the House Judiciary Committee.

She said the committee must hold Rockefeller to a high standard of conduct because, if confirmed, he would be next in line for the presidency. For this reason, she added, the gifts "raise serious questions about his fitness to be president."

Mrs. Jordan, a black, made her comments while opening her campaign headquarters for reelection to a second term from the Texas 18th district.

'Inflation-fighter'

Mansfield wants controls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fuel rationing and tough controls on wages, prices and profits are necessary to solve the nation's economic problems, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said Tuesday.

In a nationally broadcast Democratic



FIRE BROKE out in a Hughes dormitory room Tuesday when a refrigerator caught on fire. Firemen put out the fire with extinguishers and the room was damaged slightly by the smoke and fire. (Photo by Glen Johnson)

President to tell all on pardon

CHICAGO (AP) — President Ford will testify that he was asked eight days before Richard M. Nixon left the White House if he would pardon Nixon in the event of a resignation, the Chicago Tribune said in its Wednesday edition.

Quoting White House sources, the newspaper said Alexander M. Haig Jr., Nixon's chief of staff, posed a hypothetical question about the pardon to Ford, who then was vice president.

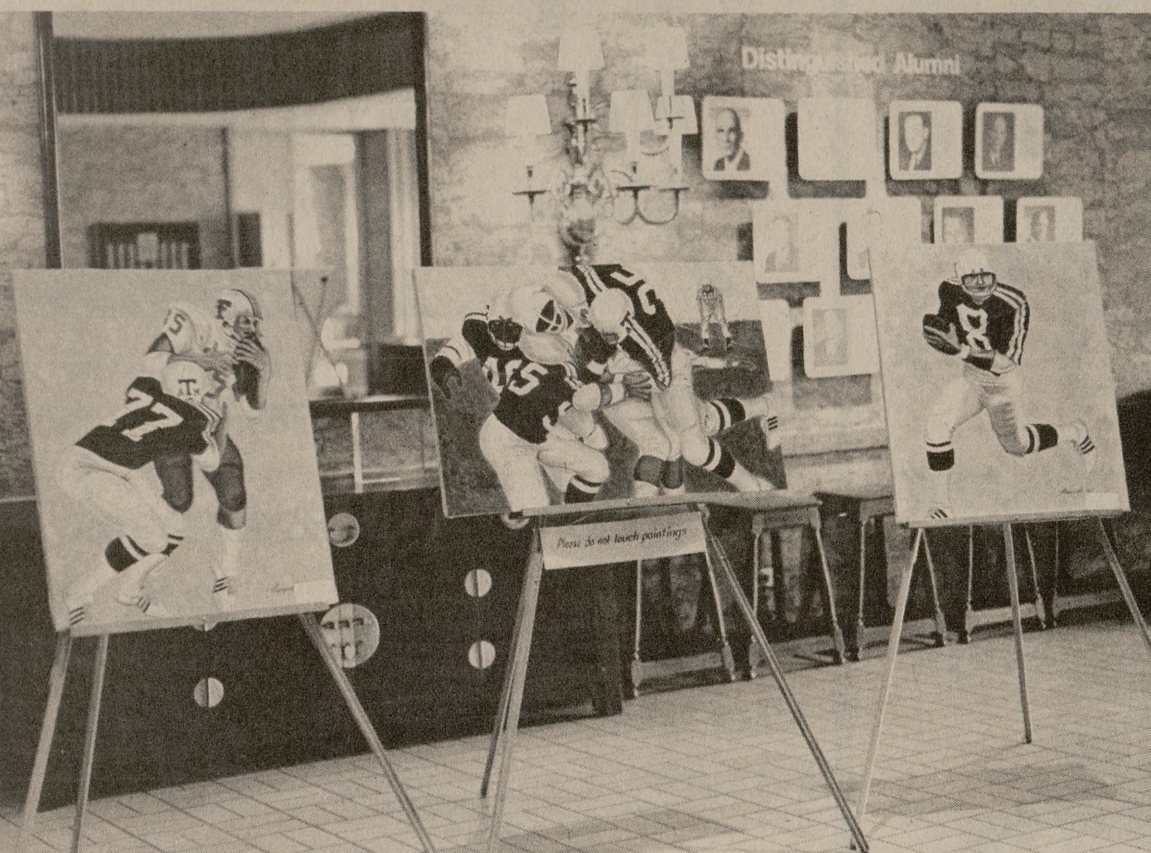
If Nixon did resign, Haig asked, would he receive a full pardon and escape criminal prosecution, the newspaper said.

President Ford will tell the House judiciary subcommittee Thursday, however, that he made no promises to Haig and refused to make a deal involving Nixon's resignation, the Tribune said.

News reports last month said Haig had persuaded Ford to grant the pardon, but the White House has steadfastly denied any such role.

When Deputy White House Press Secretary John Hushen was asked whether Haig had urged Ford to grant the pardon, Hushen said, "No, Al Haig's role is described to me... as basically neutral. He was certainly in favor of the pardon, but he did not lobby for it."

A month after Nixon's Aug. 8 resignation, Ford announced he was pardoning Nixon for any crimes he may have committed as president.



OIL PAINTINGS by a former student of A&M were on display Saturday in the Forsyth Alumni Center. The paintings were of current Aggie football players. The oils were for sale and a portion of the money made on sales went to the Former Student Association.

Dancer backs Mills' story but denies being on payroll

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Wilbur D. Mills' version of what transpired when park police stopped his car "is exactly what happened," says the former dancer who plunged into the Washington Tidal Basin in the incident.

Annabel Battistella, 38, who has avoided talking to reporters since the bizarre episode Oct. 7, broke her silence in a telephone interview in which she expressed fears for her future and anger at press accounts.

The press, she said, "is trying to destroy a great man and me and my chances for going back to school."

Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and one of the most powerful men in Congress, released a statement several days after the incident occurred. He has not appeared in Congress since.

A native of Argentina, Mrs. Battistella backed up Mills' statement but refused to elaborate on it.

"I'm not going to say any more—whatever damage has been done is enough," she said.

She denied a statement by her husband, Eduardo, that she began working for Mills as a personal secretary a year and a half ago.

A check of Mills' congressional payroll records back to 1971 did not show Mrs. Battistella's name.

Battistella, who said he runs an import business in Washington, made the statement in an interview in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"I was not on his (Mills') payroll," Mrs. Battistella said. "I did decorate his apartment, I am not a professional interior decorator, but I manage very well."

Mills, an Arkansas Democrat, paid her for the decorating job, she said, but she refused to say how much.

Mills' account of the events of Oct. 7 said the evening began with a bon voyage party for a cousin of Mrs. Battistella who was returning to her native Argentina.

Mills' wife, Polly, had a broken foot and insisted he take the party

out while she stayed home, he said.

"Mrs. Mills went out with us all the time," Mrs. Battistella said.

"We were always with other people—never alone."

The party had some refreshments, Mrs. Battistella became ill and, as they were being driven home, attempted to leave the car.

"In the ensuing struggle her elbow hit my glasses and broke them, resulting in a number of small cuts around my nose," he said.

Park police who stopped the unlit, speeding car said Mills emerged with his face bleeding and his breath smelling of alcohol.

Mrs. Battistella refused to discuss these details, but she disagreed with the police account in one respect.

Police said she jumped into the Tidal Basin, a backwater of the Potomac River. A policeman pulled her out of the water.

Brezhnev plans visit to Cairo

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Communist party leader Leonid Brezhnev will visit Cairo in January for talks with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, the Soviet news agency Tass announced today.

Election reform law signed Political financing regulated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring that "the times demand this legislation," President Ford signed Tuesday a far-reaching, Watergate-inspired campaign spending reform bill.

"There are certain periods in our nation's history when it becomes necessary to face up to certain unpleasant truths. We have passed through one of those periods," Ford said in a clear reference to the Watergate scandal.

"The unpleasant truth is that big-money influence has come to

play an unseemly role in our electoral process," he added in a statement released as he signed the measure, which he said "will help right that wrong."

Starting next year, the law imposes limits on the amount of money that any person or group can give and on the amounts candidates can spend in campaigns for federal office — president, House and Senate.

It also provides for public financing of presidential campaigns, but not for House and Senate races, and establishes an independent com-

mission to enforce the law.

"By removing whatever influence big money and special interests may have on our federal electoral process, this bill should stand as a landmark of campaign reform legislation," Ford said.

He said he supported the aim of the legislation, but "I still have some reservations about it — especially about the use of federal funds to finance elections."

The federal financing comes from a \$1 checkoff which taxpayers may authorize when they filed their an-

nual income tax returns.

"I maintain my strong hope that the voluntary contribution will not become mandatory and that it will not in the future be extended to congressional races," Ford said in his statement.

Major party nominees for president automatically would be assured of \$20 million for their general election campaigns, and minor party nominees would qualify for an amount in proportion to their party's past voting strength.

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Weather

Fair and cool Tuesday with a high of 67°. Winds from the north 10-16 mph. Low tonight 45°. Clear and mild Wednesday; high 69°.