

Ford wants prompt action in Rocky's Senate approval

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — President Ford pressed Thursday night for prompt congressional confirmation of Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller, and declared that "no conditions that I could imagine" would lead him to withdraw the nomination.

Ford said "nominating Nelson Rockefeller" was No. 1 on his list of achievements during the first 100 days of his presidency. He scolded Congress for delaying action on that vice presidential choice.

And Ford added that there was "no political chicanery" involved in about \$2 million in loans and gifts by Rockefeller to former associates—an issue that has contributed to delays in action on the nomination. At a nationally broadcast news conference, Ford also cited as a major achievement his plan for coping with the economic situation, calling it "a finely tuned program" to deal with recession and inflation at the same time.

He again spurned any turn to wage and price controls, plugged for quick congressional action on a five percent surtax on middle and upper income taxpayers, said flatly that he is not considering an increase in gasoline taxes, and hinted at mandatory energy strictures if voluntary consumption curbs don't work.

Ford, appearing before the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, said he could not venture specific forecasts in terms of dates or figures on an improvement in the economic situation. But he said it is coming.

He said there may yet be some increase in unemployment, now at 6 percent, "but I do think that if the Congress cooperates with me we can reverse that trend in 1975."

Ford fielded 21 questions from White House correspondents, local newsmen and delegates to the SDX convention.

At times, his answers were applauded by some of the estimated 1,000 persons in the hotel ballroom. And there was laughter when he defended his past membership in the Boy Scouts in response to suggestions he should shed his Boy Scout image.

As Ford arrived at the ballroom from a plush hotel outside Phoenix where he had spent the afternoon resting and taking a swim, his limousine passed near 20 demonstrators chanting opposition to the Rockefeller nomination.

But inside the hotel, Ford was firm in defending Rockefeller and

declaring he would not withdraw the nomination.

Again and again, Ford cited the role of the Democratic Congress as he urged action both on the Rockefeller nomination and on his economic program.

Ford said he did not foresee a situation in which American lifestyles would have to go backwards—but "I think we may have to tighten our belts a little bit. I think buyers will have to be better Yankee traders, and salesmen will have to be a little bit better salesmen."

In that context, Ford said he hopes voluntary measures would lead to needed savings in energy consumption. At the same time, he held out the possibility that if this course fails, there may have to be mandatory curbs.

Although he did not specify what might be done, he did say, and flatly, that a gasoline tax increase is not on any proposed administration blueprint.

"We are not considering an increase in gasoline taxes," he said.

The President broke no new ground on economic matters. Indeed, he said there is no need for major new initiative. He said he already has outlined "a finely tuned program" to meet the problem.

"I intend to do all that I can to see that he gets confirmed," Ford said.

Ford prefaced the nationally broadcast question and answer session by saying that Congress should write deadlines into the 25th Amendment to prevent prolonged hassles such as that now delaying action on the Rockefeller nomination.

He said one such change would be to require congressional action on an alternative nominee if it failed to confirm an initial selection for

vice president in some future situation.

But when Ford was asked whether he would withdraw the Rockefeller nomination if it has not been approved by the time the current 93rd Congress adjourns, he said no.

"There are no conditions that I can imagine or know of under which I would withdraw Gov. Rockefeller's name," Ford said. He said he hopes Congress will act before its adjournment.

Koldus

(Continued from page 1)

employer. If Greg (Marchand) wanted to get the info out to the people, why didn't he just talk to his boss? Being an employe of the university does not limit your right to free speech," Koldus said. Common sense is needed in employe-employer relations, Koldus said.

Marchand said Banes, who is in the hospital for surgery and unavailable for a comment, also decided to resign.

Powell said, "When someone publicly complains without discussing the problem with those directly involved and uses derogatory terms against those who employ him, what would you do? They offered their resignation, he simply accepted it."

Powell said the "phasing out of their jobs" referred to in the letter was a standard cutting back procedure initiated after the new campus directory came out, lessening the need for Housing Office information.

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