

## U.S. POLITICAL NEWSLETTER

# The Reemergence Of Rockefeller

Chicago Sun-Times columnist Jerome Watson warned on Feb. 25 that "poor Nelson Rockefeller" who, "with all that money, talent, experience, ego and ambition rotting away in the Vice Presidency," must be viewing Gerry Ford and Ronald Reagan as his "political inferiors," ... "who are vying for the thing Rocky hungers for: the Republican presidential nomination."

It has now been learned from highly-placed sources in the Illinois Republican Party apparatus that Rockefeller met with 30 top party leaders in the Midwest last month in Dearborn, Mich., and told them that "if Ford runs into trouble" with Reagan — then he will publicly enter the race for the nomination.

Such statements are consistent with Rockefeller's renewed high profile, which saw the vice president make a half dozen major public appearances this week. Observers noted that Rockefeller "seemed to be acting as his own man." At least a few media commentators remarked that Rockefeller was still an able campaigner — though none were bold enough to openly say what he was campaigning for.

A tip off that Rockefeller is indeed back in the thick of things is the reemergence of nuclear war propaganda in the bourgeois media. Over the past few days, "news analysis," special features and uniquely slanted news coverage in major U.S. dailies have emphasized the possibility of nuclear war breaking out in the not-distant future, with an included renewal of discussion around the discredited "Schlesinger Doctrine" of "limited nuclear war."

The Feb. 26 edition of the Washington Post laid "white propaganda" on this count thickly across its front page, with the story of a secret underground vault containing billions of U.S. banknotes in the aftermath of a nuclear holocaust. "Computer war games by the FPA," Federal Preparedness Agency Official Daniel Cronin is quoted as saying, "predict that half the American population would survive even an all-out nuclear strike... so, we're really not talking about the end of the world."

The following day's editions of both the Post and the Baltimore Sun gave prominent coverage to comments on an alleged Soviet nuclear build-up by Malcolm R. Currie, Defense Department Director of Research and Engineering. Soviet leaders regard nuclear war as "inevitable" and are therefore rapidly increasing their nuclear arsenal, according to Currie, who demands that Congress submit to greater defense budgets. "Strategic deterrence must be in terms of the Soviet Union understands deep down in their guts," declared Currie. He then stated that even without Schlesinger himself, the former defense secretary's "doctrine" was being implemented now, and that more accurate U.S. missiles were now an objective of defense research and development.

Two months ago, forces around the 84 year old former New York Governor Averell Harriman and investment banker George Ball had assumed hegemony of the Atlanticist camp on the basis of their opposition to this policy. Now with the collapse of their feeble policy initiatives, all factions of the Atlanticist camp are falling back on Rockefeller policy of the 1974-75 period — nuclear war showdown with the Soviets,

energy development programs, hard line to the Third World on the debt question and top-down, police state rule in the advanced sector.

Thus in six major public appearances this week, Rockefeller dusted off his discredited economic programs and cold war threats and proposed them as the solution to the country's problems. The Vice-President backed up this press buildup by demanding a massive U.S. arms production to counter "Soviet expansionism," resurrected his call for a \$100 billion federal handout to the multinational oil companies for "energy independence" projects based on slave-labor, and recommended police state measures to suppress what he called "special interest groups."

Rockefeller has opened every one of his speeches with plaudits for his nominal boss to President Ford for doing "an excellent job," then proceeding to outline his own fascist proposals which admittedly "do not purport to be Ford Administration policy."

At the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Feb. 19, Rockefeller steeped his audience in tales of a "Communist drive for world domination," warning that detente must be tempered with this understanding. His unmistakable "special interest group" reference to the U.S. Labor Party and Congressmen's working class constituencies was coupled with a vow of support for police intelligence agency "covert operations."

On Feb. 23 at the Boston convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Rockefeller told the assembled scientists and engineers that arms production was not wasteful because it put people to work and had technological "trickle-down" effects for the whole economy. Pointing to Soviet technological breakthroughs in weapons development, he demanded that U.S. scientists put their "creative powers" to work developing new and more powerful weaponry for the "productive" rearmament of the nation.

The following day's New York Times carried an Op Ed column by Rockefeller, again pushing his "Energy Independence Authority," which would give hundreds of billions of dollars to U.S. oil companies and enslave unemployed workers in "energy development" work-camps. Rockefeller appropriately cited the "precedent" for this boondoggle in the government's wholesale gift of public lands to the railroad "Robber Barons" in the 19th century. Rockefeller was simultaneously telling the Feb. 24 National Governors Conference session of the need to "streamline" the national welfare system, primarily with a view to forced labor.

Spearheading the Atlanticist swing back to nuclear confrontation and Rockefeller-style police-state austerity programs, Rockefeller's personal campaign for the presidency has only just begun. Following a barrage of public appearances across the U.S. in the next few weeks, the Vice President will begin a world tour on Mar. 20, beginning in Paris and proceeding to whistle-stop in Indonesia, Australia and other nations in the Mideast and Asia.