

Many of your other Republican governors have indicated they would like a governor from their ranks on the platform committee. Does this indicate that there is some feeling that Senator Dirksen is not in the mainstream of the party any longer?

A. Oh, absolutely not. I think Senator Dirksen is interested in having the governors participate on the platform committee. I know Mr. Bliss is, because when we went to see him the other morning, he pointed out that there hadn't been a governor on the platform committee since, I think he said, 1918. And the reason that there hadn't been was because the governors were not able to give the time, the extra week of attention and work, to the committee. And he thought it was a very salutary thing that we were now taking an interest. I think we'll have at least four or five governors on the platform committee.

Q. On your case specifically, what is some of your background on national and international affairs that qualifies you?

A. Well, I don't intend to write the international plank. I do think I've got some ideas about the problems of the cities. I think I've got enough years of experience and certainly my attention to these problems has been intense enough for me to believe that I could make a significant contribution in this area. My fellow governors seem to agree that the ideas that we have been working on jointly can be articulated adequately by me, so that's why I want to go.

Q. Would you nominate Nelson A. Rockefeller?

A. I hope so, but I'm not sure.

Q. Will you have another chat with Governor Rockefeller on the possibility?

A. Oh, I'm sure that we'll have another chat in Palm Beach.

Q. Do you agree with some of the national columnists who are suggesting that Rockefeller is doing just the right things to get nominated?

A. Yes, I do. I think his posture is exactly perfect. I'm not sure that he's adopted the posture for the expedient of becoming a nominee, but I think he's doing the right thing from an objective standpoint.

Q. Governor, the Hughes Committee is going to recommend a study of the sales tax. In view of the fact that there would be no increase in the personal tax, would you oppose a broadening of the sales tax coverage rather than an increase?

A. I would not oppose it were it geared strictly to the elimination of inequities and not to produce a large amount of new revenue. I would