

A. Well, I don't think he has finished talking with the people he wants to consult with at this point. He made clear Sunday that he wasn't going to make an immediate announcement until he had made these investigations into the sentiment of some other people who weren't able to be at the meeting. I think that it's reasonable to believe that he will make a decision in the very near future.

Q. How near Governor?

A. My guess was, several days ago, that it would be within two weeks, and I still think that is a pretty good estimate.

Q. Governor, how do you think sentiment is in the Republican Party if Rockefeller gets the nomination?

A. I think he can get the nomination. I find there's a complete lack of any effort to destroy the party on a partisan basis between people who have different ideological beliefs, and I think that the party is going to be very practical about selecting a nominee. As long as the various — or what have been branded as — establishments of one philosophy or another are cognizant of the need to cooperate and the need to form a ticket that will create an umbrella for the party, I think that we'll get along all right and I think that he has an excellent chance of getting the nomination.

Q. When you say that the party is going to be practical, do you mean that they recognize that Rockefeller has a lot of appeal generally?

A. The most conservative people recognize that Governor Rockefeller has a tremendous amount of appeal to the independent voter, to the Democratic voter who crosses party lines, because he's not welded into the party.

Q. Governor, I assume you have kept Governor Rockefeller informed of your plans here? Have you gotten any comments since the forming of the plan?

A. I haven't talked with Governor Rockefeller since Sunday, and I don't keep him informed of everything we are doing. I think that most of us who consider ourselves to be reasonably expert in what should be done politically, sometimes believe he should not be kept too well informed of what we are doing.

Q. Governor, what will your duties be as temporary chairman?

A. The purpose of this particular self-inflicted office that I have assumed — and I want to emphasize that this is on a very temporary basis — will be to stimulate the various pro-Rockefeller groups around the country, those already formed and those that are springing into