

trying to assess the implication of his position as he stated it very recently. I told you it came as a great surprise to me, and I think it did to many people. But I am not going to jump from one position to another hastily, without giving it a great deal of thought.

Q. Would you prefer the Maryland delegation to go to the Convention uncommitted?

A. I don't know at this point. That decision may not even be made until immediately before the delegation is ready to leave. We don't even know who they're going to be yet.

Q. Sir, do you hold out hopes that maybe Mr. Rockefeller will still see the light of day or still get in the race? Do you hold out any hope?

A. I don't see any possibility of that, of his own initiative. I think that, having once made as clear-cut a statement of his position as he made, there's little likelihood that he would enter the race for the nomination.

Q. Do you see any possibility of his winning the nomination without becoming a candidate?

A. I think it's possible, but you're asking my personal opinion, and I'd say the odds against it have increased.

Q. Governor, any possibility of any other dark horse coming out at the Convention?

A. Oh yes, there's always a possibility in anything as fascinating as politics in a year like this year that some new movement will take place thrusting some new personality on the scene.

Q. Could you support someone like John Lindsay or Mark Hatfield?

A. I can't think of anyone in the party that's been mentioned as a candidate for the nomination — offhand — that I couldn't support.

Q. Do you have a No. 2 choice?

A. Not at this point. You recall when I was asked during the time I was most violently campaigning for Mr. Rockefeller — I guess violent is a good word because I was probably as active as anyone — was this a "stop-Nixon" movement? And I said at that time — and I repeat — that I am not against Mr. Nixon; he may — may — even be my No. 2 choice.

Q. Will this meeting in New York be just you and Mr. Nixon or with a group of governors?

A. Just the two of us.