

PRESS COMMENT ON FORMATION OF NEW  
ROCKEFELLER GROUP

April 11, 1968

I have been too occupied with urgent affairs in Maryland the past two weeks to give any thought whatsoever to national politics, as important as that subject is to the citizens of our State.

Therefore, I have no comment at this time on the formation of the new committee to promote the candidacy of Governor Nelson Rockefeller for the presidency. I have stated repeatedly over the past year that I regard Governor Rockefeller as the best qualified possible candidate for the Presidency, but he has not yet declared publicly his willingness to actively seek the Republican nomination. Unless and until the situation develops further, I cannot actively associate myself with this effort or spend the time required on it.

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STATEMENT AT CONFERENCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS  
AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, STATE  
OFFICE BUILDING, BALTIMORE

April 11, 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hard on the heels of tragedy come the assignment of blame and the excuses. I did not invite you here for either purpose. I did not ask you here to recount previous deprivations, or to hear me enumerate prior attempts to correct them. I did not request your presence to bid for peace with the public dollar.

Look around you and you may notice that every one here is a leader — and that each leader present has *worked* his way to the top. If you'll observe, the ready-mix, instantaneous type of leader is not present. The circuit-riding, Hanoi-visiting type of leader is missing from this assembly. The caterwauling, riot-inciting, burn-America-down type of leader is conspicuous by his absence. That is no accident, ladies and gentlemen, it is just good planning. And in the vernacular of today — “that’s what it’s all about, baby.”

Some weeks ago, a reckless stranger to this City, carrying the credentials of a well-known civil rights organization, characterized the