



Confirmation vote near

NELSON ROCKEFELLER testified at the House Judiciary Committee final hearing yesterday. The House will vote on his confirmation as vice president next week.

Rocky hearings end; nod seems assured

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Judiciary Committee completed its hearings on Nelson Rockefeller's nomination to be vice president yesterday and set it for a vote next week.

Committee approval of the nomination appears certain, with only about 10 or the 38 members considered likely to vote against it. A final House vote will be held the following week.

With the Senate expected to confirm the nomination overwhelmingly next Tuesday, the House vote—also certain to be favorable—will give the nation a vice president for the first time since Aug. 9, when former President Richard M. Nixon resigned.

It will also, for the first time in the nation's history, give a president and vice president who were not elected but achieved office through the provisions of the 25th Amendment for filling a vacancy in the vice presidency.

The Judiciary Committee hearings ended as they began, with Rockefeller on the stand defending his generous cash gifts to friends and associates in public life and promising not to make any more if he becomes vice president.

Rockefeller, who spent the first two days of the hearings testifying, was recalled on the ninth and final day to give both him and the committee a chance to tie up loose ends.

One thing some members wanted to know more about was a \$30,000 loan made by Rockefeller's brother, Laurance, in 1961 to William Miller, then national Republican party chairman.

Neither brother had been able to

recall the loan in previous appearances but Laurance mentioned it Wednesday, saying he had forgotten about it, but must have made it at Nelson's request.

Nelson, who said he also had forgotten about it, recalled that Miller mentioned needing money to remain as party chairman—then an unpaid position—and that he referred him to Laurance, who specialized in venture capital investments. Miller later repaid all by \$1,900 of the loan, which Laurance canceled.

In Buffalo, N.Y., Miller said yesterday there were no strings attached to the loan. "I didn't really know Laurance particularly," said Miller. "The loan followed many conversations I'd had with Nelson. We were very close friends."

He said later Nelson volunteered the loan.

"He said he would talk to his brother Laurance and Laurance would arrange it."

"He asked for not a single thing, not before, not afterwards. He didn't even ask me to vote for him," Miller said.

The concerns expressed by members about merging the vast Rockefeller wealth with high public office still bothered the 10 or so expected to vote against him, but Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Tex., expressed what appears to be the majority view.

"The testimony proves the Rockefeller family is well off," he said. "I'm sure you're all going to make it through the winter. And I'm inclined to believe that you have a greater stake in the country than most people, and that you want it to remain free, prosperous and democratic."

Sirica rules out Nixon testimony; cites ill health, lack of credibility

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Watergate cover-up trial will end without the testimony of former President Richard M. Nixon, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica ruled yesterday.

Declaring that Nixon's testimony is not indispensable or necessary, Sirica said much of what Nixon knows has been or can be obtained from other witnesses, including the five defendants.

Beyond that, the judge said, Nixon's testimony is not required because the former president's credibility as a witness is in doubt.

Noting that Nixon is among 20 unindicted co-conspirators in the case, Sirica said the former president "has been accused, in effect, of being an accomplice of the defendants."

"Certainly...his testimony would be subject to the instruction to the jury that it should be received with caution and scrutinized with care," Sirica said.

The 61-year-old Nixon, recovering at his San Clemente, Calif., estate from complications of a chronic phlebitis condition, was subpoenaed last September by trial defendant and former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman.

Ehrlichman opened his case yesterday and among the first witnesses called by his lawyer was former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson.

Colson, also an unindicted co-conspirator in the cover-up case, is currently serving a prison term for a related Watergate offense.

Although a defense witness, Colson provided damaging testimony against

three of the defendants. When he had finished, Associate Prosecutor James F. Neal declared to Ehrlichman's lawyer: "If you're gonna call more witnesses like that we'll take 'em all."

In late January 1973, Colson said he refused a request from former White House counsel John W. Dean III that he talked with William O. Bittman, then Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt's lawyer.

Colson said he sounded out the lawyer on Hunt's status only after Dean obtained word from Ehrlichman that it was all right to see Bittman.

Hunt was then standing trial for the original Watergate break-in and was demanding hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Watergate defendants. Previous testimony has shown that high-ranking Nixon administration officials believed Hunt was about to tell federal prosecutors about links from the break-in to the White House.

Assistant Prosecutor Richard Benveniste said Colson, Ehrlichman and Dean were all "afraid Hunt would be so distraught he might make the best deal he could by telling what he knew."

The prosecutor asked Colson the purpose of meeting with Bittman, Colson, who got Hunt his first White House job, said Dean and Ehrlichman "wanted Hunt to know I was still his friend."

Colson said that while Ehrlichman wanted him to meet with Hunt's lawyer, he cautioned Colson not to make any commitments to Hunt, a retired CIA agent.

Under questioning by Mitchell's lawyer, William G. Hundley, Colson said he urged that the guilty persons in the Watergate scandal should turn themselves in.

Initially, in his six-page order, Sirica granted a request from Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller, that subpoenas for his client's testimony be dismissed.

The order also ruled out the possibility that Nixon might answer written questions about his party in the cover-up.

Three court-appointed cardiovascular specialists recommended on Nov. 29 that Nixon not be required to provide even limited testimony before Jan. 6 — about two weeks after the trial now is expected to end.

The doctors said the former President might be able to testify twice daily under oath at his California estate with a doctor present.

Sirica said the limitations within the medical opinion alone should answer attempts by defendants to get Nixon's testimony.

"The witness is simply unavailable to be deposed," Sirica said. "The court will not issue an order to take the deposition of Mr. Nixon while it appears he is so ill that the taking of such a deposition could seriously jeopardize his health."

Shortly before Sirica's opinion was made public, Nixon's lawyer said not until Jan. 6 would his client be able to even prepare to give testimony.

The lawyer said it would be "highly unfair" to require the former

President's testimony until long after Jan. 6.

Sirica agreed with that in his own order and added that complications in Nixon's recovery could also push back the date he might begin testifying.

Ehrlichman's lawyer, William S. Frates, has said Nixon's testimony is indispensable to his case because the former President kept Ehrlichman in the dark about the real reason for the Watergate cover-up. Defendants John N. Mitchell and H.R. Haldeman also sought testimony from Nixon.

Frates had asked Sirica to recess the trial over the Christmas holidays and send the jury home until Nixon could testify. Other defense lawyers suggested the jury might remain sequestered during a trial recess.

It would be unwarranted and wholly inappropriate to interrupt, adjourn or continue this trial with the jury sequestered until an uncertain date in the somewhat distant future," the judge said.

The objections from defendants Robert C. Mardian and Kenneth W. Parkinson to sending the jury home ruled out that possibility, Sirica said.

Although disposing of the time problems brought on by Nixon's possible testimony, Sirica is still pressed to close out the trial by Christmas.

He asked the jury to tell him by Friday if they would object to hearing testimony on the three Saturdays remaining before Christmas and to stay in the courtroom later than the usual 4:30 p.m. closing time.

Farmer, cycle shop owner clash over proposed motor-cross course

By DAVE SHAFFER
Collegian Staff Writer

A local motorcycle shop owner wants a motor-cross course at a site in Halfmoon Township, but the neighboring farmer does not want it.

At the Centre Regional Planning Commission (CRPC) last night, Gary Young, owner of the Two Wheels Bicycle Shop, made his plea for a zoning variance to allow the semi-professional racing course. Although the regional commission did not decide the matter, it was brought up because the course will be used by people outside Halfmoon Township.

Young said there is a need for such a "recreational" enterprise in the region because motorcycling "is the fastest-growing form of recreation in the country."

There already is a professional motor-cross raceway several miles from the proposed site in Stormstown, but Young said his operation would serve motorcyclists who do not race professionally. Much of the discussion centered on the need for such a recreational area. Stormstown is a rural area and the course site is now zoned for agricultural use.

Young said an organized raceway would get motorcyclists off private property, but from the tone of his presentation, the raceway would be

mainly for competition, not for the casual rider seeking an authorized place to ride.

He said more than 20 races are planned if the course is approved, adding that the 12 motor-cross races would draw about 500 spectators and the 12 drag races 150 spectators each.

The neighboring farmer, David Barr, objected to the noise, the crowds and the policy of relaxing zoning regulations to allow commercial development in a rural area.

"The primary purpose would be commercial, not recreational," he said.

Barr said he can already hear the noise generated by the motor-cross raceway two miles away. The noise from the proposed course abouting his lot would be even greater, he added.

His wife, Helen, said Stormstown "is the last rural community in the area," and said that such a commercial operation "is a cancer starting to spread."

After an hour's discussion, the session became almost an open debate between the motorcyclist and the farmer.

Barr, who has farmed land for 30 years, said high traffic generated by the competition would make the rural road dangerous. He added that the dirt road

to the raceway would cause a dusty haze.

Young repeatedly said he intends the raceway to be a recreational course and is not out to make a profit.

"I would run it as a non-profit proposition if I had to," he said.

The actual course would cover about 20 acres, he said, adding that the soil is unsuited for agriculture and that the farmer who owns it, Paul Brown, has agreed to allow the course.

Halfmoon Township Commissioner Ralph Seely said the matter will go before the Halfmoon Planning Commission. He said he will request the regional commission to evaluate the regional impact.

Seely said he had no definite opinion on the matter yet and would like to see "proof developed" for both the actual need and the objections.

In another matter before the planning commission, Dan Pennick, chief planner for the Centre County Planning Commission, presented the commission's recommendations on the "Year 2000 Interim Highway Plan."

The County Commission earlier this month recommended to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) that several highway

projects scheduled for construction after 1990 be built in the next five years.

The roads scheduled for construction include three sections of Route 144 from Bellefonte to Old Fort. Also recommended is the early construction of additional lanes to the Bellefonte bypass connecting to Route I-80.

The CRPC followed up on the county recommendations, approving the early construction of the roads.

Pennick said the early construction is possible because "discretionary" funds available for the routes in 1990 could be used more economically now.

He also outlined the PennDOT 12-year plan, which is a long-term construction commitment to roads in the county. The plan includes the State College bypass, the Mid-state Airport access road and the Phillipsburg bypass. Completion of these roads is scheduled for 1986.

Between 1986 and 2000 the plan calls for construction of the relocated Benner Pike connecting with the State College bypass.

Construction costs for Route 144 are estimated at \$50 million. The total for the 12-year plan is \$5 million, with the State College bypass completion taking up the biggest chunk — \$20 million.

Israel ready to bargain

TEL AVIV (UPI) — Premier Yitzhak Rabin yesterday said Israel is prepared to make far-reaching territorial compromises with the Arab states in return for peace but ruled out any return to the pre-1967 war borders.

"Under no circumstances am I ready to return to the lines that existed prior to the Six Day War of 1967," he told high school students in Tel Aviv.

Rabin said he would not detail the exact lines "before the other side is ready to sit with me to make peace."

He said Israel still hopes for a peace treaty with Syria "but I doubt there is

room for any other agreements with them besides a peace agreement."

The newspaper Ma'ariv said Israel will propose that the Sinai cease-fire line with Egypt be frozen for several years following any second-stage military disengagement accord.

Ma'ariv said the proposal would be made to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon when he visits Washington next week. Allon is scheduled to leave for the United States Sunday.

The newspaper said in a dispatch from Washington that Allon would not carry

maps detailing any new Israeli disengagement proposal with him, but would discuss the depth of another Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and what Egypt would have to pay to get it. The report said:

"Diplomatic sources in Washington explained that in contrast to the first separation of forces agreement which was unlimited in time, Israel is now interested in both a period for execution of the second agreement and an additional period to stabilize the area before a further step is discussed. Israel wants this period to last several years."

Dems O.K. 'affirmative action'

KANSAS CITY, Mo., (UPI) — Top Democrats yesterday reached harmonious agreement on how to recruit minorities for party membership, and national chairman Robert Strauss predicted the unity would produce a winning coalition for 1976.

Meanwhile, announced and unannounced hopefuls for the 1976 presidential nomination arrived for the mini-convention, the first mid-term gathering of its kind, set up hospitality suites, and began to woo supporters —

many of whom again will be delegates in 1976.

In a strong show of unity, the Rules and Amendments Committee adopted a compromise which requires "affirmative action" programs to seek out blacks, women, youth, and Chicanos in the selection of delegates to nominating conventions and other party affairs. But mandatory quotas were prohibited.

Then the committee met privately to draft a resolution spelling out the legislative programs dealing with the economy that Democratic leaders will offer to the 94th Congress.

Strauss declined to tell reporters what was in the resolution, except to say it was an endorsement of the congressional programs and also contained some specifics. He said it covered wage-price controls.

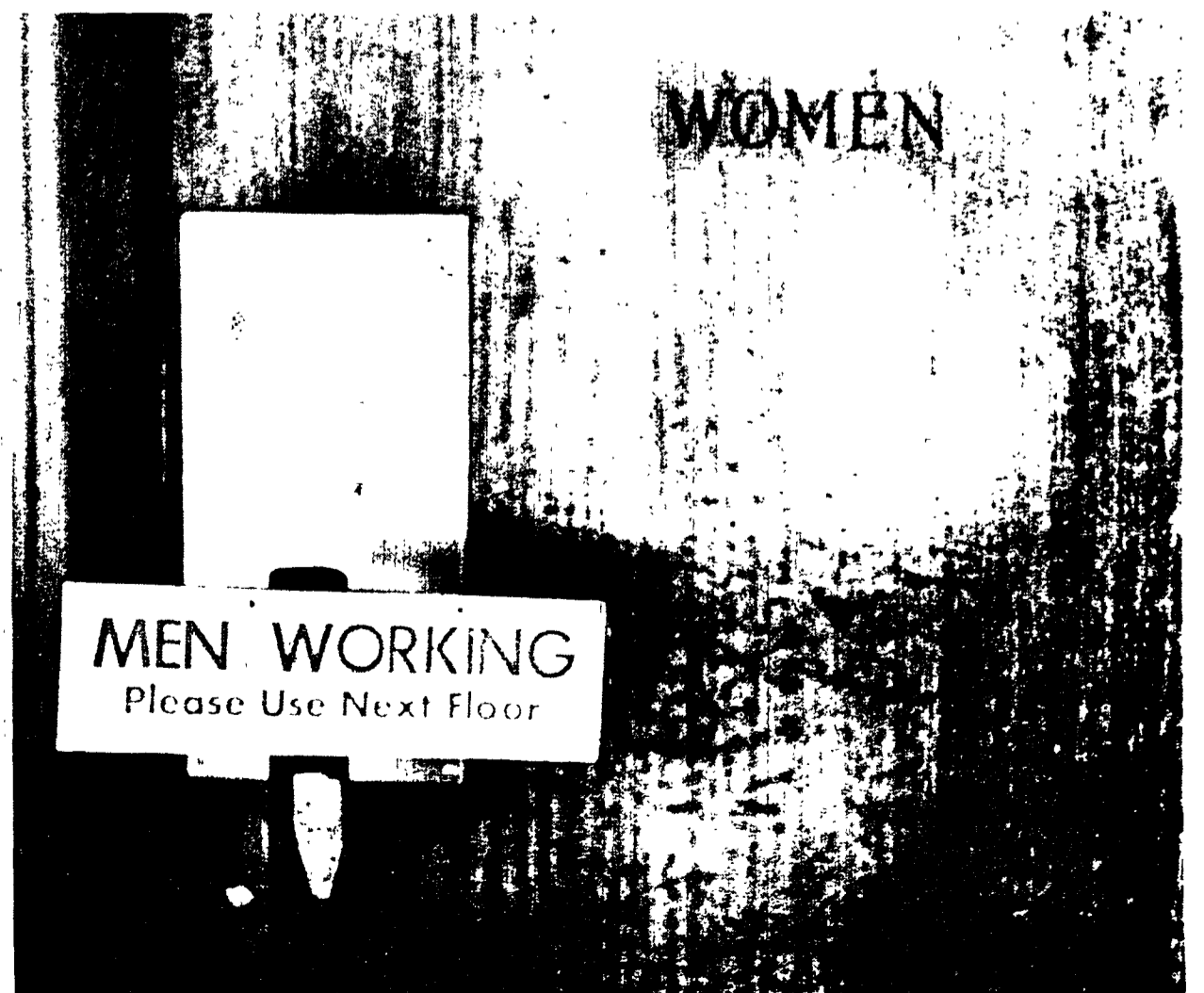
At a news conference following two days of meetings by the committee, Strauss said "a great deal" had been accomplished. He reminded reporters that he had predicted "the Democratic party was truly beginning to reunite and is building the kind of coalition that served the party and country so long."

Strauss said his party's extraordinary mid-term convention would demonstrate the party has rebuilt its winning political coalition of New Deal days.

Strauss declined to reveal details of a resolution on the party's answer to the nation's economic problems, due for presentation to the 2,035 delegates tonight, but said it would be directly based on speeches by the party's congressional leaders, who would present a "hard-hitting, forceful specific program here."

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 40. Becoming cloudy late tonight. Low 28. Rain developing late tomorrow. High 43. Rain or snow likely Sunday. Turning colder. High 40.



Words of warning

THIS MESSAGE, meant to warn those unliberated women who refuse to enter male-occupied rest rooms, was sighted in the HUB recently.

Photo by Ira Jaffe