

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

PERHAPS ROCKY WILL BE REPUBLICAN CHOICE
GOP CRYSTAL-GAZERS SEE ROMNEY SLIPPING

By HENRY CATHCART

Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The current jockeying among Republican big names for the 1968 GOP presidential nomination is fascinating to watch. The performance bears more overtones than a who-dunit.

The principal topic among Republican political crystal-gazers is the rising speculation on the possibility of the big prize going to New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller. The implication behind the increasing prominence of the Rockefeller name is that Gov. George Romney of Michigan is faltering in his own all-but-announced bid for the nomination.

Rockefeller practically admitted as much recently when he said that he would not refuse to be the New York favorite son candidate for the GOP presidential nomination. Rockefeller hastened to add that he would not permit his name to be entered into the 1968 presidential primaries of any other states, but this is the first time that he has publicly permitted his name to be linked even that closely to the nomination contest.

Rockefeller is an avowed supporter of Romney's candidacy. The New Yorker has lent him material support in the way of personnel and advice. But the Rockefeller statement clearly implies that he doesn't think Romney's chances of capturing the nomination are as bright as they were heralded as being only a couple of months ago.

If Romney should be removed from the running, it is almost certain that Rockefeller would ease up even more on his current attitude against contesting for the GOP nomination. The principal reason is his conviction, and that of many influential backers in his wing of the Republican party, that neither Richard M. Nixon nor Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois, could carry the party to an election victory next year.

● THE END—Perhaps the most widely used bit of government gobbledegook is the use of the word "finalize." In government it seems someone almost always is "finalizing" something or other. An official of one government agency has vowed to do something about it.

Robert C. Wood, undersecretary of Housing and Urban Development, became acutely aware of the overuse of the word one day when he noticed its use in six successive agency press releases. Wood says that he will complete, end, conclude, finish or terminate the careers of any of his agency's press release writers who don't stop using "finalize."

Wood made his position known in a tongue-in-cheek memo which won the laughter of most HUD workers, but there were a few who took the whole thing seriously and muttered about bureaucratic tyranny.

● DIPLOMATIC ALERT—One key to State Department insiders for judging the crisis level of diplomatic activity is to watch the cafeteria. During the Middle East crisis the cafeteria went on an around-the-clock basis.

Another key is for these insiders to check at the operations center of the department. It has a little board hanging on the wall with the heading "TODAY'S CRISIS."



OPEN TUES. & THURS. 11:30 P.M.
CLOSED SATURDAYS-JULY AND AUGUST

Get Carried Away Twice In One Day

By RICHARD M.M. MCCONNELL
(NC News Service)

Washington—Military police at the Army's Fort Myer in suburban Virginia put a quick and quiet end to a recent peace demonstration led by Father Philip Berrigan, S.S.J., of Baltimore and including Jesuit seminarians and Baltimore lay people.

But a few minutes after it was over, the same demonstrators and the same MPs put on the same show in a new location and this time it took a lot longer to stop.

Briefed beforehand by lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union, the 13 demonstrators drove to the fort from Washington's Georgetown section. While alerted newsmen watched from the sidelines, the 13 stopped onto the fort's parade grounds and knelt at the base of the post flagpole.

For the first 10 minutes, nothing much happened. Small knots of soldiers shook their heads and children giggled. A teenage girl urged soldiers to "turn a cannon" on the demonstrators. Across the parade ground, the vivid colors of sign protesting the Vietnam war clashed with the black clothes of priests and seminarians.

Then a handful of officers stepped out on the parade ground and spoke with Father Berrigan. Two military policemen walked down the line of kneeling demonstrators and ripped up the anti-war posters. The demonstrators locked arms and began to pray aloud.

The Army had had enough. A colonel ordered the MPs to carry off the demonstrators, and they began by tearing Father

Berrigan loose and slinging him onto a waiting Army bus.

One by one, the priests, seminarians and other male demonstrators were carried into the bus, until only two women were left kneeling in the field. Urged to cooperate, they stood up and walked to the bus on the arms of military policemen. The bus drove off the base, the unwilling passengers got off, and it was all over. The whole thing took 20 minutes from beginning to end.

But the demonstrators, with other ideas, climbed into two cars and drove right back onto the base in a mad procession of protesters, MPs, newsmen and a motorcycle messenger.

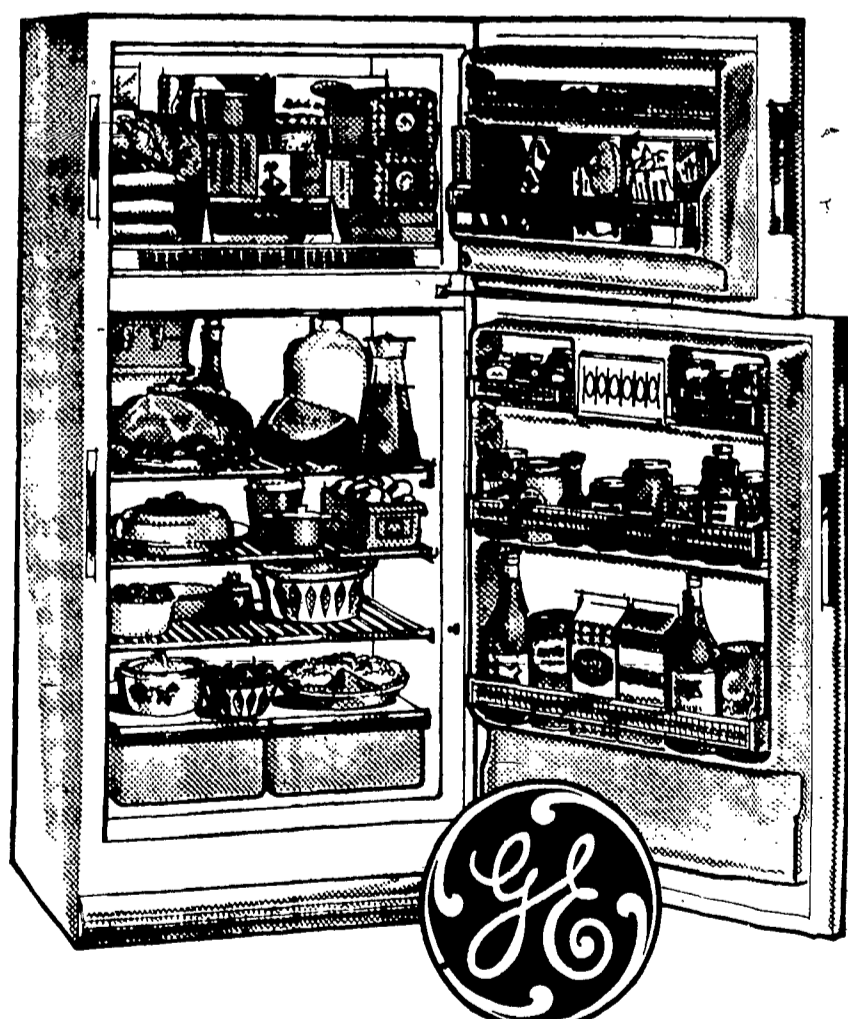
The pickets got as far as an open field across from what is known as Generals' Row and knelt down to pray. The colonel ordered the MPs to move in, the MPs carried the protesters to the bus, and they all drove off to sit outside the office of the base provost marshal.

When nothing happened at the provost marshal's, the bus moved off the base again, the protesters moved off the bus again, and it was all over again—at least for that day.

But no one could say it was all over for good, because this was the third attempt made by the group to demonstrate at Fort Myer. It was also the best prepared.

The demonstration was preceded by a legal briefing in a Washington parking lot. Lawyers outlined the possibilities of arrest, commented on past events at similar vigils, and extracted a promise that any imprisonment would not be followed by a fast from liquids.

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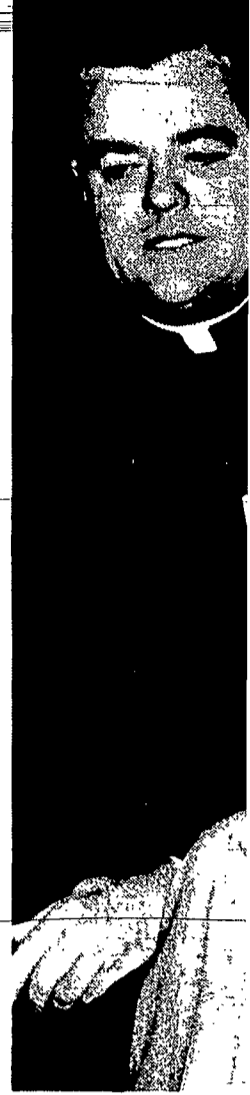
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