

BIOGRAPHY OF
NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER



Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller was nominated by President Ford as Vice President of the United States on August 20, 1974, under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. He was confirmed by the Congress and sworn in as Vice President on December 19, 1974.

In February of 1975, President Ford designated Vice President Rockefeller as Vice Chairman of the Domestic Council and asked the Vice President to oversee the Council's work in assessing national needs, coordinating national priorities, reviewing Federal programs and proposing reforms.

Previously, Vice President Rockefeller had been the first Governor in the Nation's history to be elected to four four-year terms. Under his leadership, from 1959-1973, New York State achieved national prominence in such areas as environmental protection, education, aid to local government, crime control, transportation, health and mental health, social services, housing and consumer protection.

Mr. Rockefeller had been active in government at the local, State and Federal levels for several years before his election as Governor and selection as Vice President. His service with the Federal government began in 1940 when he was appointed Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs by President Roosevelt.

In 1950, Mr. Rockefeller was named Chairman of the newly created International Development Advisory Board by President Truman. President Eisenhower called upon him in 1952 to assume the chairmanship of the President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization. As Chairman of that committee, Mr. Rockefeller recommended some 13 reorganization plans. One led to the establishment of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, of which he subsequently became Under-Secretary. Mr. Rockefeller resigned that post in 1954 to become Special Assistant to the President for Foreign Affairs.

While Governor of New York, Mr. Rockefeller served as Chairman of the National Governors' Conference Committee on Human Resources. From 1965 to 1969, he served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. From 1969-1974, he served on the National Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Nelson Rockefeller resigned as Governor on December 18, 1973 to devote his efforts to the Chairmanship of the Commission on Critical Choices for Americans and the National Commission on Water Quality.

Vice President Rockefeller was born on July 8, 1908 at Bar Harbor, Maine, the third of six children of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. He graduated in 1926 from Lincoln School in New York City and in 1930 from Dartmouth College.