

Guide to  
the Microfilm Edition  
of the

**FBI File on  
Nelson Rockefeller**

A Microfilm Publication by

**SR** *Scholarly Resources Inc.*  
*Wilmington, Delaware*

## **Publisher's Note**

Scholarly Resources does not claim copyright to the materials comprising this collection or to the accompanying guide.

## **Acknowledgment**

Scholarly Resources microfilm publications of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Files are produced with the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC.

ISBN 0-8420-4299-7

Manufactured in the United States of America

Published 2001

### **Distributed on microfilm by:**

Scholarly Resources Inc.

104 Greenhill Avenue

Wilmington, DE 19805-1897

[www.scholarly.com](http://www.scholarly.com)

### **Distributed outside the U.S.A.**

#### **in Japan by:**

Far Eastern Booksellers

P.O. Box 72

Kanda, Tokyo 101-91, JAPAN

## Introduction

Nelson Rockefeller, grandson of industrialist John D. Rockefeller, held many state and federal offices. In 1940 he began a long career in government when President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him as coordinator of inter-American affairs. He served in various federal posts until he was elected governor of New York in 1958. In 1973, after three unsuccessful runs for the Republican presidential nomination, Rockefeller resigned as New York's governor. In 1974, President Gerald Ford appointed him vice president.

This file contains papers relating to the background checks conducted by the FBI in advance of Rockefeller's appointment to various positions within the federal government. It provides an excellent example of what comprises a full-blown FBI background check and is lightly excised.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act; certain documents or portion of documents have been deleted by the FBI pursuant to provisions of that legislation. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of materials or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.



## Roll Notes

**PART 1 of 6**

**Roll 1, 0001-0256**

*May 1943-Jul 1968*

Investigation into the alleged remark by Nelson Rockefeller that "Nazi saboteurs are being trained in schools in Argentina"

Memo acknowledging the monthly check of telephone lines at home and office successfully completed

Personal background of Nelson A. Rockefeller

Investigation concerning a possible kidnapping threat

Condolences on the death of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

News articles:

*The Washington Post* (May 1960)

"John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Dies in Arizona at Age 86"

"John D. Jr. Devoted Life to World Philanthropy"

Investigation into the allegation that the Kennedy Administration used FBI agents to gather information on Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to use against him should he plan to run for president

Investigation of remarks Gov. Rockefeller made regarding Alger Hiss

News article:

*New York Daily News* (Jan 1964)

" 'FBI Told Me of Hiss Back in 1945:' Rocky"

Investigation of a threat to assassinate Gov. Rockefeller and Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles

Investigation into remarks made by Eliot H. Lumbard, a special assistant counsel for law enforcement in NY, critical of the FBI

Investigation into the report of Quebec Revolutionists and threats against the President of the United States and other governmental officials

**PART 2 of 6**

**Roll 1, 0258-0451**

*Jul 1968-Feb 1975*

Investigation into threats made against presidential candidate Gov. Nelson Rockefeller

Investigation into the possible attempt on the life of Gov. Rockefeller (Jun 1969)  
Request by Gov. Rockefeller for discussion of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and black militant activities in New York State  
Investigation into alleged presence of a bomb at Hancock Field, Syracuse, NY and threat against Gov. Nelson Rockefeller  
Internal Security: SDS  
Students for a Democratic Society (Weatherman) and threats against the President, Vice President, Attorney General and Gov. Rockefeller  
Request by Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller for a special FBI tour  
Request by Gov. Rockefeller for any information regarding bomb threats relating to the Attica prison incident  
Investigations into threats made against Vice President-designate Rockefeller

**PART 3 of 6**

**Roll 1, 0453-0776**

*Feb 1975-Jun 1977*

Investigation of bomb threats received by the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, host of a dinner for President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller  
Investigation of threats made against Vice President Rockefeller

News articles include:

*The Washington Post and Times Herald:*

"Nixon Rival Seen in Rockefeller" (Aug 1958)

"Rockefeller's Candidacy Busted" (Aug 1959)

"Why Marriage May Hurt Rocky" (May 1963)

"Javits Leading Rockefeller Opposition" (May 1967)

*The Washington Post* (Nov 1974)

"Senate Panel Set to Back Rocky"

*The New York Mirror:*

"Liberals Boo GOP; Not 'Rocky' " (Sep 1958)

"Rocky Readies his Assault on 1964" (May 1963)

*The New York Daily News* (Oct 1964)

"Screenings of Ford, Rock, May be Good Precedents"

**PART 4 of 6**

**Roll 1, 0778-1078**

*Jul 1968-May 1977*

Investigation of threat made against Vice President  
Rockefeller and Jackie Onassis

Investigation of threat to kidnap Gov. Rockefeller

Investigation of threat against President Ford, Vice  
President Rockefeller, et al.

Investigation of bomb threat against Gov. Rockefeller

Special Inquiry, the White House

routine background check on presidential appointee

Nelson Rockefeller (1950)

Investigation of threats against President Carter,

President Ford, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, et al.

with the "Declaration of War" "Hippie Revolution"

letters

Conspiracy to kill President Ford and Vice President

Rockefeller, Oklahoma City (Apr 1976)

Investigation into threat against President Johnson, Vice

President Humphrey, and Gov. Nelson Rockefeller

(eight Quebec revolutionaries, Jun 1968)

Threat against President Ford and Vice President

Rockefeller (Cincinnati, Aug 1976)

Threat against the President of the United States

(May 1977)

**PART 5 of 6**

**Roll 1, 1080-END**

*Sep 1975-Sep 1959*

**Roll 2, 0001-0066**

Investigation of threat against President Ford, Vice President

Rockefeller, et al. (Charlotte, NC, Sep 1975)

Threat against the Vice President of the United States

signed: Red Warriors (New York, Feb 1975)

Investigation of threat against President Ford, Vice President

Rockefeller, et al. (Los Angeles, Aug 1976)

Memoranda concerning the proposed Western Hemisphere

Police Conferences (Apr 1945)

Loyalty of Government Employees check (Mar 1953)

Investigation of threat against Vice President-designate  
Nelson Rockefeller (Sep 1974)

News article:

*The New York Times* (Sep 1958)

"Rockefeller Asks Equality for All"

News article:

*The New York Post* (Sep 1958)

"Rockefeller Speaking to Harlem Voters on Civil  
Rights Issue"

Copy of the State of New York Message to the  
Legislature and Inaugural Address of Gov. Nelson  
Rockefeller (Jan 1967)

Remarks of Gov. Rockefeller before the International  
Association of Chiefs of Police (Sep 1959)

Memoranda concerning the Cigarette Tax Enforcement  
Conference (Sep 1967)

List of Members of the Inter-American Development  
Commission (May 1944)

Investigation of threatening letters sent to Gov. Nelson  
Rockefeller, et al. by an individual confined to  
prison in Springfield, MO (Nov 1974)

News articles include:

*The New York Mirror*: (Jan 1958)

"N.Y.-The G.O.P.-N.J."

*The New York Journal-American* (May 1958)

"Election Hopefuls and Possibilities"

*The New York Times* (Sep 1959)

"Rockefeller, a Capitalist Symbol, Meets No. 1  
Soviet Communist"

Excerpts from Drew Pearson radio broadcasts (Jun 1959,  
Nov 1961, Dec 1961)

Memorandum on Coordination of Commercial and Cultural  
Relations with Latin America (Aug 1940)

Report concerning the San Francisco Peace Conference  
(Jun 1945)

Gov. Rockefeller invites J. Edgar Hoover to attend a  
conference on the topic of juvenile delinquency (Sep 1959)



**PART 6 of 6**

**Roll 2, 0068-0197**

*Sep 1974-Apr 1966*

Investigation of threat to kill Vice President-designate  
Nelson Rockefeller (Sep 1974)

Investigation of bomb threat against President Ford and  
Vice President Rockefeller (Sep 1975)

Memorandum regarding the Future Status of the Coordinator  
of Inter-American Affairs (Mar 1944)

Report concerning the San Francisco Peace Conference  
(May 1945)

Report on "The Committee for the Removal of Dr. Henry A.  
Kissinger, an Unmasked Soviet Agent" which names  
Dr. Kissinger and Nelson Rockefeller as Communists

Report on the "Conference on Crime" (New York City,  
Apr 1966) chaired by Gov. Rockefeller

Excerpt from "Foreign Service Journal" (Nov 1955)

**FBI File: 161-6197**

SECTION 1

**Roll 2, 0199-0445**

*Mar 1969-Aug 1974*

News article:

*The Washington Post* (Mar 1969)

"Rockefeller Family Album"

Request for full field investigation on Rockefeller, as a  
possible presidential appointee

Background and character reference material

News articles:

*The Austin American* (Aug 1957)

"Officials Dodge Queries About ICT Investigation"

*The Dallas Morning News* (Jun 1957)

"Swindlers' Legal Help Draws Fire"

*The Wall Street Journal* (Dec 1968)

"United Nuclear Board Urges Holders Reject  
Offer of Ashland Oil"

Proposal of questions to be asked concerning the United  
Nuclear Tax Liability Dismissal

Special Inquiry: Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate  
Rockefeller background information and character references

**FBI File: 161-6197**

SECTION 2

**Roll 2, 0447-0819**

*Aug-Sep 1974*

Special Inquiry: Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate  
Rockefeller background information and character references

SECTION 3

**Roll 2, 0821-1124**

*Aug 1974*

Special Inquiry: Nelson Rockefeller, Vice-President-designate, includes:

Background check, employment record, interviews with political, religious, and business leaders

News articles include:

*Times Union:*

"Rocky Signs Abortion Bill" (Apr 1970)

"Gun License Action Pushed by Governor" (Jan 1968)

"Rocky Asks New Anti-Crime Agency" (Mar 1972)

"Rockefeller Proposes Drug Program Aimed at Young" (Feb 1970)

"Rocky Declares Total War on Drug Use" (Feb 1970)

"Rocky Rights Bills Expand on Housing, Job, Age" (Feb 1970)

"Rocky Gives Women the 'Political Aye' " (Mar 1972)

"Rocky Reveals South Mall Cost Leaps Another \$75 Million" (Feb 1970)

"Governor Defends Mall Costs" (Jan 29, 1971)

"Kennedy Lacks Vision, Rockefeller Says" (Sep 1963)

"Rocky Back, Urges Shift in U.S. Policy" (Jul 1969)

"New Welfare, School Aid Flatly Rejected by Rocky" (Aug 1969)

SECTION 4

**Roll 2, 1126-END**

*Aug 1974*

Special Inquiry: Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Rockefeller background information and character references

Excerpt from the State Assembly of New York resolution to Impeach Gov. Nelson Rockefeller (1971)

Excerpt from the Laws of New York, 1971 (pp1603-1605) citing the law enacting a residence requirement before public assistance would be considered

SECTION 5

**Roll 3, 0001-0294**

*Aug 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Interviews with political, business, and religious leaders, union leaders and educators

SECTION 6

**Roll 3, 0296-0601**

*Aug 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Rockefeller releases income tax records for review

Interviews with political and labor leaders, personal associates, and the news media

News article:

*Liberty Lowdown* (Apr 1968)

"Nelson Rockefeller: Communist Agent"

*Liberty Letter* (Sep 1974)

"Back-to-School Busing: Congress Reports

Toothless Tiger; H.E.W. Orders More Busing;

Citizens Demand Freedom of Choice"

Family background information

Interviews with business and labor leaders, religious leaders, racial leaders, state senators and assemblymen

News article:

*Barrons* (Aug 1974)

"Vote Against Rocky: New York's Gain Should Not be  
the Nation's Loss"

SECTION 7

**Roll 3, 0603-0807**

*Aug 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-  
designate

Investigation into deplorable conditions at InterFaith  
Hospital while Rockefeller was governor

Interviews with associates of Nelson Rockefeller

Excerpts from radio interview with Dr. Peter Beter  
(Aug 1974) who claimed that the fall of the regime in  
Greece was caused by the CIA under Rockefeller's  
direction

Investigation into the divorce proceeding of Mary C.  
Rockefeller against Nelson A. Rockefeller (Mar 1962)

Allegation of secret contract with Electronic Data Systems  
for operating NY State welfare program by computer

Report of Rockefeller supplying financial records

Interviews with public and newspaper officials

News articles:

*The Buffalo Evening News* (Jul 1959)

"Western New Yorker Brings Yank Know-How to  
Venezuela Farms of Gov. Rockefeller"

*The Times Union* (Feb 1967)

"Rockefeller Campaign Spending Under Study"

*The Buffalo Evening News* (Sep 1971)

"Rocky's Liberal Image Shattered by Attica"

"Legislator Seeks to Impeach Rocky"

Excerpts from published lectures:

"The Future of Federalism" by Nelson Rockefeller

SECTION 8

Roll 3, 0809-0989

*Aug-Sep 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Interviews with public officials; political, business, and religious leaders; and organizational affiliations

News articles:

*New York Times* (Sep 1971)

"Rockefeller Bars a Visit to Attica"

"Gov. Defends Order to Quell Attica Uprising; Appoints Chief of Inquiry"

"Governor Explains Attica Role" (May 1972)

*New York World Telegram* (Feb 1964)

"Rockefeller's Divorce, Why Did He Risk It?"

Report on: Abortion Legislation; Attica Prison Uprising; Bank loans and fiscal policy; political favoritism

News article:

*The National Tattler* (Sep 1974)

"Mysterious Death Silences Key Informant in Missing Ft. Knox Gold Controversy"

**FBI File: 161-6197**

SECTION 9

Roll 3, 0991-END

*Sep 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Allegation of fraud concerning the merger of United Nuclear Corp. and Sabre-Pinon Corp.

Interviews with business and public officials

Allegation that Rockefeller is a proponent of World Federalism and regional government

Excerpts from published lectures:

"The Future of Federalism" by Nelson Rockefeller

SECTION 10

Roll 4, 0001-0264

*Sep 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Report regarding delays in securing Rockefeller financial statements

Allegation of fraud and Rockefeller involvement in the attempted merger of Sabre-Pinon and United Nuclear Corporations

Pamphlet: "None Dare Call it Conspiracy" by Gary Allen

SECTION 11

Roll 4, 0266-0593

*Sep 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Rockefeller financial statement

SECTION 12

Roll 4, 0595-0830

*Sep-Oct 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

News articles:

*The Wanderer* (Sep 1974)

"Don't Knock It . . ."

*The Fact Finder*

"Is Nelson Rockefeller too dangerous to confirm for our next president?"

Investigation into the award of certain data processing consultant contracts by the NY State Department of Social Services in Feb and Jun 1973

Rockefeller financial statements

Affidavit of Charles A. Dun Leavey against Rockefeller

Investigation of an \$86,000 "gift" from Rockefeller to L. Judson Morhouse

News article:

*The New York Times* (Oct 1972).

"Lindsay Charges 'Machine' Rule of State Bench"

SECTION 13

Roll 4, 0832-0984

*Oct-Nov 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

News articles:

"This is American Opinion" (Aug 1974)

*The Washington Post* (Oct 1974)

"Report Hints Rockefeller Cover-Up"

*Pro-Life Reporter* (Summer 1974)

"The Rockefeller Legacy"

Allegation that Rockefeller used "Watergate-type" tactics while governor in the early 1960s

SECTION 14

Roll 4, 0986-1151

*Nov-Dec 1974*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Allegation that Rockefeller misused the State Police while governor of NY

News article:

*New York Times* (Dec 1974)

"Rockefeller Says State Checked Against Bugging at 1968 Party"

*Times Union* (Dec 1974)

"Lawsuit Ties State Police to illegal bugging"

Allegation that while governor, Rockefeller had stopped a state investigation of an insurance company

SECTION 15

Roll 4, 1153-END

*Dec 1974-Feb 1984*

Special Inquiry; Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President-designate

Report on Examination of the Unity Mutual Life Insurance Company

Publications:

"Why Rockefeller Should Not Be Confirmed"

"The Truth About Rockefeller"

**"Did Rockefeller Help Fuel Communist War  
Machines?"**

**Investigation into the issuing of a 1959 racing license to the  
Finger Lakes Racing Association, Inc.**

**News article:**

***The Congressional Record* (Dec 1969)**

**"The Council on Foreign Relations: American's  
Unelected Rulers"**

**Rockefeller financial investigation miscellaneous documents**

**Rockefeller financial investigation accounting working  
papers re: political expenditures, income taxes, trusts  
income**

**Rockefeller financial investigation accounting working  
papers re: statement of net worth**

**Rockefeller financial investigation miscellaneous documents**

**Pamphlet:**

**"The Conspiracy Against the Dollar: The Spirit of the  
New Imperialism" by Peter Beter**

**Briefing of the Vice President**

**Report of an anonymous phone call threatening the Vice  
President, the Attorney General, and Chief of the FBI .**