

# Romney Salvages Power In GOP Despite Dropout

By DON HOENSCHELL

LANSING—Gov. Romney stayed home from the New Hampshire primary, but insiders predict he will salvage national political power from his short campaign for the presidency.

His drive in New Hampshire kept some of its momentum in the primary, and it is this basic GOP choice figure will give Romney stature.

When he withdrew from the presidential primary race, Romney preserved some of his bargaining power for the time when the party makes its decision on its candidate for 1968.

ROMNEY'S FIRST step was to withhold flat-out endorsement of New York's Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, despite Rockefeller's early and dedicated work for him.

Despite the results of the New Hampshire primary and other straws in the wind, Romney is still saying it's too early to make guesses on Rockefeller, Richard M. Nixon or California's Gov. Ronald Reagan.

In private polls in New Hampshire the week before his Feb. 28 withdrawal, Romney was trailing behind Nixon, Rockefeller and was one per cent behind Reagan.

This disclosure made it clear the pressure Romney was under as he chose the words that took

him out of the race.

ROMNEY, WHOSE political education was a cram course on the presidential primary trail, could afford to muse about Nixon's promise to end the war in Vietnam if elected president.

"It's a noble promise. I haven't seen how he's going to do it."

Romney said he hadn't heard anything from Rockefeller on Nixon's promise or whether he had any views on a quick windup of the war in Vietnam.

Romney flatly denied tipping

off Rockefeller in advance that he was thinking of getting out.

Rockefeller said he knew about it when he made his ice-breaking "I'll serve if drafted" statement in Detroit the preceding week.

However, Romney said the Rockefeller statement was one of the factors in his decision. He said he did not feel Rockefeller had doublecrossed him.

"I THINK GOV. Rockefeller did more to help me than I asked him to do," Romney said.

"I'm not complaining."

Later on the national television show, Romney said he never had solicited Rockefeller's support or endorsement.

"There were no commitments on my part," Romney said. "Gov. Rockefeller elected on his own in 1966 to support

me for the presidency. What he did to support me he did on his own."

Romney sidestepped a direct question on whether his move was a stop-Nixon attempt, stating only that he has no single choice now among the

GOP presidential candidates. He said he would work with the GOP governors and the other top-echelons of the party in helping determine the party's direction on the candidate issue.

"I HAVE NO commitment with respect to the 1968 Republican nominee, and I have simply indicated that my course of action will be what I have just stated," Romney said.

Romney's campaign staff is picking up the pieces in New Hampshire, and some are already being courted by other candidates.

Travis Cross, the Oregon whiz who has been with Romney for a year, will go back home April 1, but he has bids to go to work for the three other candidates.

Young trees for reforestation

Young trees and shrubs are being sold through the Conservation Department's Forestry Division in Lansing for this spring's reforestation and game improvement plantings on private lands in Michigan.

Available for spring delivery are nearly six million pine and spruce seedlings and transplants; which the Department is offering at approximate production costs to promote timber growing for cash crops, erosion control, and the establishment of farm windbreaks.

The department's lineup of stock, strictly withheld from being used for ornamental plantings, is largely made up of young red pine trees and includes smaller supplies of white

pine, jack pine, white spruce, and Norway spruce.

In a continued effort to encourage game habitat work on private lands, the department's list of stock for spring plantings again also features special packets containing 500 seedlings each of such species as autumn olive, multiflora rose, Siberian crab, wild grape, and fragrant sumac.

The packets each consist of 400 hardwoods and 100 conifers and are priced at \$8. Four different choices are offered to provide landowners with the best-growing stock for the areas in which they will make plantings.

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