

Rockefeller Urges U.S. to Federate the Free

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"Employment of the Federal system under which this nation became great, to preserve the free world, to was recommended tonight by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, the Associated Press said Feb. 9 in a half-column report on the third of his "Godkin Lectures" at Harvard on "The Future of Federalism." He held:

"It is a tragic fact that the free world today offers no secure structure of international order within which the basic aspirations of free men may be realized and the safety and rights of free nations be guarded... I believe the historic answer to the problems the free world confronts can be found in the federal idea."

He found their problem "strikingly similar," according to the A.P., "to those met by the original 13 American Colonies—'problems of security and a trade, of growth and of order, and above all, the human aspirations of the free individuals.'"

After recalling his 1960 statements in favor of "regional confederations—in the Western Hemisphere and in the Atlantic community" and perhaps elsewhere, the Governor, according to *The New York Times* (which gave more than a column special report) said "he had come to believe that rapidly moving events might push beyond the limits of regional concepts to the logic of applying the federal idea wherever possible among free nations, however distant, however seemingly strong in themselves.

"Mr. Rockefeller said that today it was merely a 'matter of cold political realism' to recognize that the Federal idea that 'secured freedom and order' for the U.S. in the 18th-century could also apply in the 20th-century. 'Such an idea could conceivably serve to guard freedom and to promote order in the free world today.'

"Anything less than such a sweeping designed is 'too puny for the time in which we live,' he said. Today, he said, nation-states are threatened with becoming as anachronistic as Creek city-states in their day." He added:

"The historic choice fast rushing upon us is no less than this: Either the free nations of the world will take the lead in adapting the Federal concept to their relations, or one by one we may be driven into the retreat of the perilous isolationism—political, economic and intellectual—so ardently sought by Soviet policy, its policy of divide and conquer."