

Rockefeller dead

NEW YORK, Jan 27: Mr Nelson Rockefeller, the former US Vice-President, died at his office at the Rockefeller Centre last night, his spokesman Hugh Morrow said today. He was 70, reports AFP.

The family of Mr Nelson Rockefeller controls nearly 40 big corporations valued at some 70,000 million dollars.

The Rockefellers also are on the boards of directors of nearly 100 other corporations worth about 640,000 millions. Among them is the Standard Oil (SO) petroleum empire built up by the founder of the dynasty, Mr John D Rockefeller.

His competitors considered him a voracious financial shark back in 1906. He said that the power of earning money was a gift of god, and it was, therefore, the duty of Mr John D

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Rockefeller to make more and more money.

PHILANTHROPY

But the four generations of the Rockefeller family have not piled up a mountain of money merely to live in luxury.

Mr John D Rockefeller gave 530 million dollars to charity for "the good of humanity."

His son, Mr John D Junior, distributed another 346 million.



Mr Nelson carried on the family tradition of blending philanthropy with American-style capitalism and also sought to serve the public through politics. But he failed in his ambition of being elected President of the United States.

He was the eldest surviving member of the third generation. His brother David is President of the Chase Manhattan Bank, one of the country's most important, and brother Laurence is a noted philanthropist.