

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, N. Y.

William A. M. Burden, President of the Museum of Modern Art, announced today that Nelson A. Rockefeller has been elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees to succeed John Hay Whitney, who has been appointed United States Ambassador to Great Britain.

Both Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Whitney have been trustees of the Museum since the early thirties, shortly after the Museum was founded. Both have served as President and have made important contributions to the Museum Collection. Mr. Whitney will continue as a trustee.

Mr. Rockefeller's business activities and government posts encompass a wide range. He is chairman of the board of Rockefeller Center, Inc., president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the founder and president of the International Basic Economy Corporation, an international financing and development company.

Mr. Rockefeller is also the founder and a director of the non-profit American International Association for Economic and Social Development, which provides educational and information services primarily for improving agricultural and rural life in Latin American, and chairman of the IBEC Research Institute, a non-profit corporation for research in tropical agriculture.

During the past 16 years, Mr. Rockefeller has served with the federal government as Coordinator of Inter-American affairs, Assistant Secretary of State in charge of relations with the American republics, Chairman of the International Development Advisory Board, Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and most recently Special Assistant to President Eisenhower for foreign affairs, a position from which he resigned in December 1955. He is now chairman of New York State's Temporary State Commission on the Constitutional Convention, and since 1953 has been chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization.

In accepting Mr. Whitney's resignation as Chairman of the Board, Mr. Burden said:

It is with deepest regret that the Trustees of the Museum of Modern Art accept the resignation of Mr. John Hay Whitney as Chairman of the Board, a regret that is only lessened by Mr. Whitney's decision to remain a Member and by his assurance of continuing active interest in the Museum's activities.

Mr. Whitney joined the Museum's Board of Trustees in 1930. As one of the founders and as the first President of the Museum's Film Library, he has been largely responsible for its spectacular success which makes it today the most important institution of its kind in the world and the depository of the greatest collection of master works of the film.

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In 1941 Mr. Whitney was elected to the Museum's Presidency and in 1946 he became Chairman of its Board of Trustees. The Museum's extraordinary record of achievement during his tenure of office reflects to a large degree his enthusiastic interest in the development of the Museum's collection and his generosity and his wise council in the conduct of the Museum's affairs. In accepting Mr. Whitney's resignation as Chairman of the Board, the Trustees on behalf of the Museum wish to express to him their gratitude and warm appreciation of the important contributions made by him as their presiding officer.

For further information contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.