

Buckley Reveals Use Of False D.C. Groups

By James R. Polk
Associated Press

Senate winner James L. Buckley of New York got more than \$400,000 in campaign cash through false-front committees set up in Washington to conceal who the donors were.

In one day alone, a quarter-million dollars was poured into the Conservative candidate's third-party race through committees with names like "League of Middle American Women" and "Scientists for Sensible Solutions to Pollution."

The contributions were uncovered in a bulky report Buckley filed voluntarily with the Senate. His campaign manager, David R. Jones, acknowl-

edged the Washington committees were set up to hide the names of the donors.

"That's the only reason," Jones said.

Part of the money flowed from staunch Republicans, such as Wall Street bankers, who didn't want to alienate the GOP organization in power in New York by having their names linked publicly with Buckley, Jones said.

Buckley won a three-way race with Democrat Richard L. Ottinger and incumbent Sen. Charles E. Goodell, a liberal Republican abandoned by the White House.

More than 50 committees were used in Washington by Buckley's campaign. In turn, they funneled the money into 100 other Buckley committees set up in New York. These 100 passed on the money the same day to Buckley's campaign.

The Washington names ran the range of the imagination: "Town Meeting Preservation Society," "Committee to Keep a Cop on the Beat," "Students for a Stable Society," "Citizens for Citizens Government," "Neighborhood Schools."

Asked about the names, Jones smiled, "We made a game out of it."

Because of a loophole in the law, there is no requirement for campaign committees set up in the nation's capital to report where they get their money and how they spend it.

As a result, so-called "D.C. committees" have become traditional pipelines for money from special-interest groups and other donors who want to keep their identity hidden.

According to Buckley's report to the Senate, the Washington committees were the sole contributors to the 100 committees created at the New York county level with such names as "Herkimer County Citizens for Buckley" and "Chenango County Friends of Buckley."

Each of the 100 New York

committees received various contributions adding up to exactly \$3,000 apiece, with most of the money pouring in on the same day—the Friday before the election.

Then all 100 committees shifted their money that day to the "Buckley for Senator" campaign—a move made easy because all 100 had the same man as treasurer: K. Ross Jordan, an executive in Buckley's family firm.

In addition to this \$300,000 infusion, the Conservative campaign also received \$98,000 the same week from another hidden fund-raising group in Washington, the "D.C. Buckley for Senator TV Committee."

And six other groups with names like "Potomac Friends of Buckley" and "Capitol Hill Friends of Buckley" added nearly \$25,000 more.

The total outpouring through the Washington committees in just four days added up to \$423,519.09.

These unidentified donations paid for more than one-fifth of Buckley's \$2 million campaign.

Jones, young political pro, who will become Buckley's No. 1 Senate aide next month, discussed the fund-raising arrangement openly with a newsmen and said he would prefer reforms in the campaign laws that would make such devices unnecessary.

"I think it's absurd. But you have to do it this way," said Jones.



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New York Sen.-elect James Buckley and his wife, Ann, talk to newsmen after his victory as a Conservative in a three-way race for the Senate in November.