

Sen. Buckley Won't Bare His Tax Data

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Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons. R-N.Y.) has turned down a request from The New York Times for a statement of his new worth and a copy of his income tax returns.

Buckley said he didn't think it a good idea for The Times to survey the 60 members of the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut congressional delegations on their financial status because of presumed public concern on officials' financial dealings.

He said The Times would do better to seek out the same information from its publisher, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, its top editors and similar officials of the television networks, The Washington Post, Newsweek and Time magazine.

"I do not consider my net worth and information on my income tax returns to be any of The Times' business. I will not, therefore, comply with your request," Buckley wrote in a letter to The Times.

To my knowledge, not a single constituent has ever requested any information concerning my net worth or returns. Indeed, if there were any single theme that runs through the mail (from constituents), it is the public abhorrence of the kind of invasion of privacy represented by your request."

Times reporter Martin Tolchin, who made the request, said Sens. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.), Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) and Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) as well as Reps. Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.), Howard W. Robison (R-N.Y.) and Charles W. Sandman Jr. (R-N.J.) had agreed to provide the data requested. Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) made a response similar to Buckley's Tolchin said.

For example, Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) published his complete 1972 tax returns Dec. 14, 1973. Sen. James B. Allen (Ala.) filed a statement Jan. 16, 1973, putting his net worth at \$85,265; and Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) filed a statement listing his net worth at \$547,800.