

BUCKLEY FORESEES '72 NIXON VICTORY

Senator Also Says Agnew Would Help Ticket

By THOMAS S. RONAN

Senator James L. Buckley declared yesterday that he would put "good odds" on the re-election of President Nixon next year and that Vice President Agnew would be a "definite asset" if he were on the ticket.

servative-Republican cautioned that there could be "serious consequences" for the President if Conservatives broke with him.

He said the next three or four months "ought to be very instructive for the conservative community in determining whether Mr. Nixon has shifted his policies as much as they think or whether he has shifted at all."

The Senator gave his views in response to questions at a wide-ranging news conference at the Commodore Hotel where he gave a progress report on his first year in the Senate.

He said there would have to be some evidence Mr. Nixon had not shifted his course as

much as some of his actions seemed to indicate if he wanted the support of the conservatives.

The Conservative party in this state and leading conservatives have "suspended" their support of Mr. Nixon, whom the party backed in 1968, in protest against some of his policies. The Senator has not joined this movement and he gave no indication yesterday that he would. But he has expressed strong reservations about some of the President's moves.

Last week, the Conservative party, in suspending support of the President, cited the President's advocacy of a national welfare program, his wage and price controls, the "detente

with Red China" and what it called the nation's deteriorating defense position.

Mr. Buckley said the conservatives regarded the President's impending trip to Communist China as "a massive breach in the solidarity of the anti-Communist front."

Repeating his own criticism of the Administration's wage and price controls, he said they had not worked in the past and would not work now. He also said the Soviet Union was increasingly outstripping this country in the arms field.

Mr. Buckley speculated that the defense situation might be a "sleepier" issue in next year's campaign. He said one way for

the President to appeal to conservatives would be to give strong leadership in building the nation's defenses.

Otherwise, he said, he did not see any major issue in the campaign. He said that Vietnam was no longer an issue and that the economy would not be because it was improving.