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BUCKLEY DEFENDS PRESIDENT ON WAR

3 Other G.O.P. Senators
Also Back Pullout Policy

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WASHINGTON, April 22—
Senator James L. Buckley of
New York and three other Re-
publican Senators took the
Senate floor today to defend
President Nixon's withdrawal
policy in Vietnam.

Reading his speech to a near-
ly empty chamber, Mr. Buck-
ley, a Conservative-Republican,
said that he confessed to "a
feeling bordering on despair
as I see the abandonment of
reason and reality which has
crept into the antiwar rhet-
oric."

Referring to the reduction in
American troops and casual-
ties, in South Vietnam, Mr.
Buckley declared:

"We are on the verge of
achieving the success of our
years of effort in blood and
treasure. To heed the demands
for a precipitous withdrawal
at this time would betray the
valiant efforts made to date.

"By simply continuing our
training, logistics and air sup-
port efforts for but a brief
period of time, the South Viet-
namese will be capable of
bearing the full weight of their
own defense."

'At the Water's Edge'

Without mentioning by name
the critics of Mr. Nixon's viet-
nam policy, Mr. Buckley con-
cluded: "There used to be a
saying that in America politics
stopped at the water's edge. It
is time, Mr. President, that we
dusted off this fine principle
of political responsibility and
once again abided by it."

In a speech that preceded
Mr. Buckley's, Senator William
B. Saxbe of Ohio said that it
would be "unrealistic" to set
a specific date at this point for
the withdrawal of all American
troops.

"If it is fair to say that the
Vietnam war has become
'Nixon's war' then it is also
fair to say our steady with-
drawal of American troops has
become 'Nixon's withdrawal,'"
Mr. Saxbe said.

Senator Clifford P. Hansen
of Wyoming contended that an-
nouncement of a firm date for
the withdrawal of American
troops could lead to the risk
of "having America's rear guard
pinned down by the enemy and
delay the achievement of com-
plete withdrawal."

Senator Robert Taft Jr. of
Ohio said that he was "some-
what amazed at the continued
criticism of President Nixon's
policies by the Johnny-come-
lately doves," and added:

"Their silence during the six-
ties, when a Democratic Presi-
dent was shipping hundreds of
thousand of young American
men into combat is testimony
to the pure politics of their
current dissent."

Move for "A Balanced Diet"

Mr. Buckley told reports that
he had decided to join in the
round of speeches to provide
"a balanced diet" in the cur-
rent discussion about Vietnam.
He generally has expressed sup-
port for the President's con-
duct of foreign affairs, but it
was only his second major Sen-
ate speech since taking office
in January. In his first speech,
Tuesday, Mr. Buckley advocat-
ed an alternative to Mr. Nixon's
proposal to share \$5-billion in
federal revenues with state and
local governments.

Mr. Buckley also said that
because of a full schedule he
had been unable to talk yes-
terday with a group of Viet-
nam veterans who had request-
ed a meeting with him to talk
about the war. He said that
he would meet next week with
representatives of various anti-
war groups.

Later this afternoon, how-
ever, a spokesman for the Sen-
ator reported that Mr. Buckley
had encountered a group of
veterans from Long Island at
the Capitol after he had de-
livered his speech and spent
about 20 minutes talking with
them. The spokesman described
it as "a good session."