

# Wilson Files Demurrer On Proposal by Buckley

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ALBANY, March 19 — Gov- ernor Wilson disagreed ter- sely with Senator James L. Buck- ley today and said that he did not think President Nixon should resign.

The Senator is entitled to his opinion, the Governor said in a brief statement that end- ed: "I do not share his opinion."

The Buckley call inspired a wide variety of reactions among state politicians. Some said it would force the whole issue more openly into the state political forum as Republicans asked themselves—in the words of Senator John D. Calandra, the Bronx G.O.P. leader—"Why should I have to carry the Nixon burden on my back in November?"

Many politicians disagreed with the notion of resignation, asserting, as Mr. Wilson had done earlier, that the constitu- tional processes centering on the impeachment question were now under way and should be permitted to reach conclusion one way or another.

"A resignation by the Presi- dent is tantamount to an ad- mission of guilt," is the way Senate Republican majority leader, Warren M. Anderson, of Binghamton, put it.

## A Change of Positions

Politicians here talked at great length about the Senator's statement in private gossip. Many seemed amused by the question of whether this left Senator Jacob J. Javits in a position of greater apparent leniency toward the President than Mr. Buckley.

"How do you top that hand?" said one Republican, grinning in the Senate. "Jake will have to come out for guillotine."

Former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller issued a statement through a spokesman pointing out that he had previously op- posed those who would "harass and drive a President from office" by resignation. This would leave a "great and un- resolved doubt," his spokesman said, and only the current con- stitutional process is suitable for settling the issue.

Mr. Wilson has been saying much the same thing lately, taking the lawyer's view that only the evidence can settle the question and he is not familiar with the evidence.

He was reliably reported to have been informed in advance today by Senator Buckley and attempted to talk him out of his decision.

Of the number of questions raised by Mr. Buckley's state- ment, politicians lingered on the timing—why now rather than later—and the motive. A few speculated that Mr. Buckley was concerned about how his record might look on the issue to the voters in 1976.

But a greater number of those interviewed credited him with motives independent of politics.

## Mahoney Hails Courage

"He felt he owed it to his nation and his conscience," said J. Daniel Mahoney, the state Conservative party chair- man, while asserting that the resignation call was not neces- sarily the view of the party or its chairman. "The Senator spoke entirely from disinter- ested motives and I greatly ad- mire his courage."

Mr. Wilson, who is consid- ered to be wooing the Con- servatives for second-line en- dorsement, will have no addi- tional hurdle because of the Buckley statement, the party leader said.

Other politicians may feel more compelled to speak on the Watergate issue now, in the view of Kieran O'Doherty, co-founder of the Conservative party. However, he said Gov- ernor Wilson would not have to do so because he had not had "enough time to get to know the national scene that well."

Some Republicans said that Mr. Wilson should have with- held comment for a time, to see how things settled. However Richard Rosenbaum, the state G.O.P. chairman, said this would have been wrong because "as of this date" there is no proof of wrongdoing by the President.

## Survival of System Seen

The survival of the political system itself is at stake, Mr. Rosenbaum asserted, adding that those who speak of adher- ing to the law should be espe- cially mindful of the constitu- tional processes during the cur- rent troubles.

Speaker Perry B. Duryea, the Montauk, L. I., Republican, said, "I have no reaction." At- torney General Louis J. Lefko- witz said "His (Senator Buck- ley's) statement speaks for it- self."

One legislator talked of the statement as "the seeds for the destruction of the Conservative party." But the Conservative leaders saw it as a frank invita- tion for other conservative Re- publicans to speak their mind more openly on the subject.

Senator Calandra, who seemed as candid in public as many others were in private, said it was unfortunate that state and local politicians had to deal with the Watergate issue. "But the ball is rolling down the hill and it's getting bigger and bigger," he said.

"I think the President's pos- ture is a heavy weight for any Republican to bear," Mr. Calan- dra continued. "Let's face it, the party would be in better shape if [Vice President] Ford were President."