

# Buckley Says Mail Runs 3 to 1 Opposing His Stand on Nixon

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By MARTIN TOLCHIN MAR 27 1974

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WASHINGTON, March 26— Senator James L. Buckley of New York said today that he had received more than 10,000 letters since urging President Nixon to resign and that most of them had denounced his suggestion.

The Senator added, however, that some Republican colleagues in the Senate were now moving toward his position, and that one Senator, a moderate Republican, was now "terribly close" to coming forward with a statement of public support.

Mr. Buckley, a Conservative-Republican, last week urged the President to resign as "an extraordinary act of statesmanship and courage" because his continuation in office imperiled the Presidency and the nation's institutions. The Senator

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made no judgment of the President's guilt or innocence in the Watergate case.

Senator Buckley said that of those letters already counted, 1,478 supported his position, while 5,105 opposed him "for a ratio of 3.40788 to 1."

"Some of the language I find more expressive than anticipated" the Senator said at a news conference in his Capitol Hill office.

He said that his mail con-

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tained historical allusions [Benedict Arnold], religious references [Judas] and classical references [Brutus]. The Senator said that critics had attacked him mostly on the ground that he had prejudged the case, and also because they felt that "I lunged for the jugular."

The mail is sorted in his office in large cardboard cartons labeled "misinformed Americans" and "great Americans." From the first carton came a letter from a Manhattan man who said that "I consider it a betrayal of a man who helped you so forcefully to win election to the United States Senate."

A Syracuse woman wrote that "we had counted on you and have been deeply disappointed that you have let us down."

From the second carton came

a letter from a Bronx priest who said, "Felicitations on your stand of today," and a Brooklyn woman wrote, "You'll always have my vote."

F. Clifton White, the Senator's Conservative strategist and campaign aide, visited the Senator this morning. He told newsmen that it was too early to assess the impact of Mr. Buckley's position on his political strength in New York State. Mr. Buckley's term expires in 1976.

Thus far, Senator Buckley and Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, a liberal, are the only Republican Senators to urge the President to resign. The Associated Press reported that 15 Democrat Senators had publicly or privately urged the President to resign.

Senator Buckley said that he felt that his greatest contribution was in elevating the discussions about Watergate.