

NYTimes

11 CONSERVATIVES CRITICIZE NIXON

Headed by William Buckley,
They 'Suspend' Support

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WASHINGTON, July 28 —

Eleven prominent conservatives announced today that they had resolved to "suspend" their support of the Nixon Administration to protest its foreign policies.

President Nixon's "overtures to Red China," his "failure" to respond to the spread of Soviet influence in the Mediterranean, his "failure" to oppose West Germany's attempts at rapprochement with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and cited also the "deteriorated military position" of the United States.

"In consideration of his record, the undersigned, who have heretofore generally supported the Nixon Administration, have resolved to suspend our support of the Administration," the conservatives said.

"We do not plan at the moment to encourage formal political opposition to President Nixon in the forthcoming primaries, but we propose to keep all options open in the light of political developments in the next months," the group said in a statement issued here and in New York.

William Buckley leads list

The list of signers is headed by William F. Buckley Jr., editor-in-chief of National Review and a member of the United States Advisory Commission on Information. Mr. Buckley was named to the unsalaried post by President Nixon in 1969.

Senator James L. Buckley, Conservative-Republican of New York, who is Mr. Buckley's brother, was not among the drafters or signers of the statement.

A spokesman for the group said it had decided "as a matter of policy" not to solicit or accept signatures from elected officials.

The other signers were William A. Rusher, publisher of National Review; James Burnham, its editor; Allen H. Ryskind, Congressional editor of Human Events magazine; Anthony Harrigan, columnist and executive vice president of the Southern States Industrial Council; Neil McCaffrey, president of Arlington House Publisher and Conservative Book Club; Thomas S. Winter, vice chairman of the American Conservative Union; Jeffrey Bell, editor of the magazine Battle Line; Randal C. Teague, executive director of Young Americans for Freedom; J. Daniel Mahoney, chairman of the New York Conservative party, and Frank Meyer, its vice chairman.

Senator Buckley has already publicly criticized President Nixon's plan to visit Peking.

While the statement by the group also spoke of Mr. Nixon's "failures" domestically, it centered on the Administration's foreign policy.

Criticism on China

The statement criticized Mr. Nixon's "overtures to Red China, done in the absence of any public concessions by Red China to American and Western causes."

But the conservatives noted a "failure to call public attention to the deteriorated military position in conventional and strategic arms, which deterioration in the absence of immediate and heroic countermeasures can lead to the loss of friendly governments near and far, and all that this implies."

The group announced that it would "seek out others who share our misgivings, in order to consult together on the means by which we can most effectively register our protests."

Mr. Rusher, spokesman for the group, said that the declaration was open to signatures by others. He said, however, that the group had no plan to send the statement to the White House.

The statement said the group reaffirmed its "personal admiration" for Mr. Nixon, stressing that "we consider that our defection is an act of loyalty to the Nixon we supported in 1968."