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Buckley, Nixon Meet In Secret

By DON OBERDORFER

WASHINGTON (WP) — Mending his fences with unhappy conservatives, President Nixon met secretly at the White House yesterday with Sen. James L. Buckley, the Conservative-Republican Senator from New York.

Also in the meeting was Attorney General Mitchell, who was Nixon's political campaign manager in 1968 and who is expected to be again in 1972.

The meeting did not appear on the President's public schedule, and was acknowledged by the White House only after a reporter spied Buckley arriving at 1600 Pennsylvania Av. in an open-top Jaguar. Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said the meeting was not announced because it was "private."

The Senator's brother, William F. Buckley Jr. as well as the chairman and vice chairman of the New York Conservative party and nine other conservatives issued a public statement July 28 "suspending" their political support of Nixon because of disagreement with his foreign policy and military policies.

They resolved to "keep all options open" in the 1972 Presidential race — specifically including the option of encouraging formal conservative opposition to Nixon.

The Senator did not sign the declaration of nonsupport but he issued a statement of his own last Saturday. He said the conservative manifesto has "serious implications" for the President's re-election chances. He asserted that if the concerns of conservatives jell into open opposition "it will be virtually impossible for the President to regain their support."

Buckley declined to give any details of yesterday's White House conference.