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Focus on the Basics, Says Sen. Buckley

Senator James L. Buckley (Rep. N.Y.) last night urged his party to hang on to basic Republican principals in the wake of the Watergate scandal and encourage the "harried, commonsensical middle-American" to remain politically active.

"All that we are hearing today are about the rotten, cynical factors that have come to light, and that is breeding cynicism in the American public," he told about 110 persons attending the 13th anniversary dinner of the Bay Area Republican Alliance at the St. Francis Hotel.

Buckley said Watergate was a "classic example of abuse and the tempatation of abuse" caused by tremendously centralized power in the Executive branch, a situation he blamed on past Democratic administrations.

Before his brief speech and a question and answer session, Buckley said he believes there has been too much media concentration on the Watergate, scandal to the exclusion of other important developments in government.