

NYTimes MAR 20 1974

# SENATOR BUCKLEY BIDS NIXON QUIT; PRESIDENT RETORTS HE WILL NOT; HE LIFTS SUNDAY 'GAS' SALE BAN

## AN ALLY DEFECTS

MAR 20 1974

### New York Conservative Asks 'Act of Courage' for Nation's Good

NYTimes

By MARTIN TOLCHIN  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 19—  
Senator James L. Buckley of  
New York, who has staunchly  
supported President Nixon, to-  
day became the first conserva-  
tive Republican in Congress to  
call upon the President to  
resign.

"I propose an extraordinary  
act of statesmanship and cour-  
age—an act at once noble and  
heartbreaking, at once serving  
the greater interests of the na-  
tion, the institution of the Pres-

Text of Senator Buckley's  
statement is on Page 30.

idency, and the stated goals for  
which he so successfully cam-  
paigned," the Conservative-  
Republican said at an overflow  
news conference in the Senate  
caucus room.

"That act is Richard Nixon's  
own voluntary resignation as  
President of the United States,"  
Mr. Buckley said, his hands  
folded before him as he  
squinted into the television  
lights.

President Nixon said at a  
news conference in Houston  
this evening that Mr. Buckley's  
proposal had not caused him  
to reassess his position not to  
resign. Mr. Nixon, who received  
a copy of Mr. Buckley's state-  
ment from the Senator last  
night, said:

"It perhaps would be an act  
of courage to resign. But while  
it may be an act of courage to  
run away from a job you were  
elected to do, it also takes cour-  
age to stand and fight." He  
added:

#### No Judgment Offered

"From the standpoint of  
statesmanship, for a President  
of the United States to resign

because of charges against him  
which he knew were false, and  
because he had fallen from the  
fold, would not be statesman-  
ship. It may be good politics,  
but not statesmanship."

The Senator offered no  
judgment on the President's  
guilt or innocence, but said  
that Mr. Nixon had lost the  
ability to govern, and now  
confronted the nation with a  
searing, televised trial in which  
"the ruler of the mightiest na-  
tion on earth would be starred  
as the prisoner in the dock."

Senator Buckley said that the  
Watergate affair had become

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"a disorder, a trauma, involv-  
ing every tissue of the nation,"  
and that President Nixon's  
resignation was the "one way  
and one way only by which the  
crisis can be resolved, and the  
country pulled out of the  
Watergate swamp."

Senator Buckley supported  
President Nixon on 70 per cent  
of key Nixon-issue roll calls in  
1973, and opposed the Presi-  
dent only 14 per cent of the  
time. The Senator has taken  
what he regards as moral  
stances on many issues, to the  
surprise of his colleagues.

His moral opposition, for ex-  
ample, has led him to oppose  
operating subsidies for mass  
transit in New York City, al-  
though the Democratic city  
government and Republican  
state government have be-  
seeched Washington for funds.  
In another area, his opposition  
to pork-barrel public works  
projects led him to oppose such  
projects for New York, a posi-  
tion virtually unheard of in  
Congress.

Mr. Buckley's proposal  
stunned Capitol Hill, but gener-  
ated virtually no support from  
those who had not previously  
urged Mr. Nixon to resign. The  
proposal also started consider-  
able speculation on the moti-  
vation of Mr. Buckley, who was  
elected to the Senate in 1970  
with the active intervention of  
President Nixon, who had di-  
rected Vice President Spiro T.  
Agnew to scuttle the election  
campaign of the then Republi-  
can incumbent, Senator Charles  
E. Goodell.

In New York, Governor Wil-  
son said that he did not agree  
with Senator Buckley.

"It's devastating," Senator

Bill Brock, Tennessee Republi-  
can, said of Mr. Buckley's pro-  
posal.

The impact of Mr. Buckley's  
statement resulted, in part,  
because the proposal was made  
by an ally of the President, who  
can no longer portray those  
who seek Mr. Nixon's ouster  
from office as either irrespons-  
ible liberals or Democratic  
partisans.

Some of his colleagues linked  
Mr. Buckley's action to the  
political situation in New York  
State. In this connection, Sena-  
tor Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania,  
the Senate Republican leader,  
told a cluster of colleagues on  
the Senate floor today that  
"Jim Buckley has just lapped  
Jack Javits," meaning that Mr.  
Buckley had outpaced Mr.  
Javits on the political track.

Senator Edward W. Brooke  
of Massachusetts, a liberal, is  
the only other Senate Republi-  
can to call upon President  
Nixon to resign. Three Senate  
Democrats who have urged the  
President's resignation are John  
V. Tunney of California, Daniel  
K. Inouye of Hawaii and Walter  
F. Mondale of Minnesota.

Senator Buckley telephoned  
several conservative colleagues  
this morning, including Senator  
Barry Goldwater, Arizona  
Republican, and read them por-  
tions of his statement. Senator  
Goldwater responded by linking  
Mr. Buckley's proposal to the  
New Yorker's political fortunes.

#### Goldwater Comments

"While I can fully under-  
stand the feeling of Senator  
Buckley and that of any Republi-  
can official seeking re-elec-  
tion, I believe that two  
questions arise when it comes  
to asking for the resignation of  
President Nixon," Mr. Gold-  
water said. Mr. Buckley's term  
expires in 1976.

The first question is whether  
the American concept of fair  
play would be negated, Mr.  
Goldwater said, and the second

was a possible precedent  
"whereby any man in the  
White House who was philo-  
sophically unacceptable to cer-  
tain politicians and segments  
of the media might be forced  
to resign."

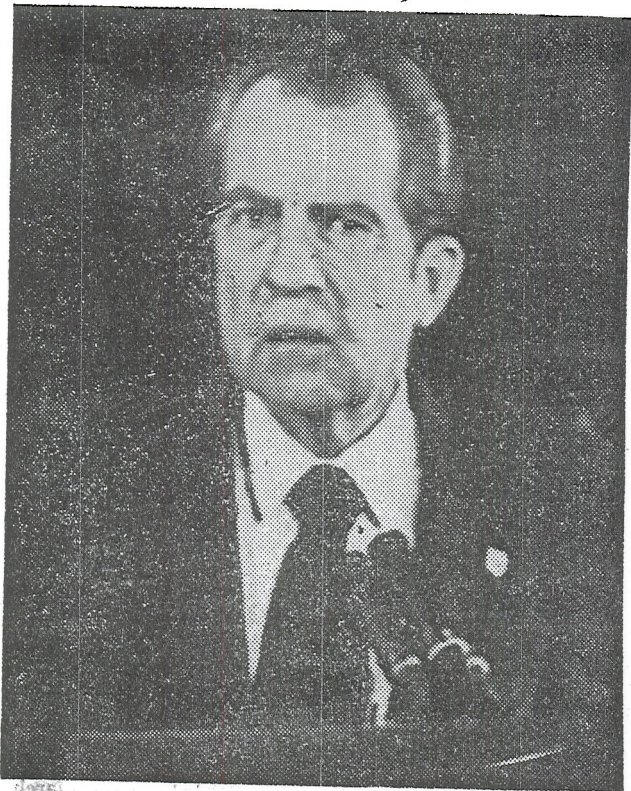
Senator Goldwater said that  
although he disagreed with  
Senator Buckley's proposal "if  
any evidence of criminal act on  
the part of the President is  
proven, I shall change my posi-  
tion and support the Buckley  
proposal."

Senator Jesse A. Helms, a  
North Carolina Republican Mr.  
Buckley also consulted, said  
later that Mr. Nixon should re-  
sign only if he was guilty.

Vice President Ford said that

he firmly believed the President  
to be innocent of involvement  
in Watergate, and should not  
resign. George Bush, chairman  
of the Republican National  
Committee, also said that he  
disagreed with Mr. Buckley.  
Representative Dan Kuyken-  
dall, Tennessee Republican,  
called Mr. Buckley's proposal  
"most dangerous, as it would  
affect the Republic and its op-  
erations."

"His willingness to see a man  
forced out of office without  
proof of impeachable conduct  
shows a lack of understanding  
as to how this republic was  
formed and how it operates,"  
Mr. Bush said.



AP/WIDE WORLD  
The New York Times/Joyce Dopkeen  
**President Nixon on TV as he listened to one of the questions put to him by newsmen last night in Houston.**



The New York Times/George James  
**Senator James L. Buckley, New York Conservative-Republican, as he called upon the President to resign.**