

# Reaction to Buckley's Suggestion

Washington

Senator James L. Buckley's proposal that President Nixon resign gained no visible converts among Republican conservatives yesterday and brought the New Yorker a stack of angry telegrams.

Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, a Democrat, asked to respond to the senator's proposal, replied with a smile that "I'd like to leave it up to the Republicans to argue that thing out."

An Associated Press poll found, however, that although Buckley a Republican conservative, and Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts stood alone among Senate Republicans publicly favoring Mr. Nixon's resignation, 15 Democratic senators — some of whom requested anonymity — now believed that the President should quit.

Senator Buckley, whose proposal dominated capital cloakroom conversations, said yesterday that he thought that President Nixon's support by conservatives is thinner than many supposed.

Buckley, asked on the NBC "Today" program whether he believed that the President's conservative support may be shallow, replied "I think in a very real sense, yes."

"I feel that conservatives, along with others in the country, have been deeply concerned over much of what we have learned about the activities of some of the people in and around the presidency, activities that

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are inherently shocking, inherently indefensible," Buckley said.

A stack of 400 telegrams — many of them personal and vituperative — sent to Buckley ran 3 to 1 against resignation.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York's senior Republican senator, said at a news conference that he does not believe that the President should resign "at this time."

"It may be Senator Buckley's bag, but it's not my bag," Senator Javits said, and then repeated "at this time."

What would be the proper time? "I don't know," Javits replied. "I want to press forward with early action by the House of Representatives on impeachment."

Senator Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, a moderate Republican and an early critic of the Watergate break-in, also favored the impeachment route. But he denounced President Nixon's defense of his conduct as "trash" in a speech Weicker made last weekend in Connecticut.

Senator Clifford Case of New Jersey, a liberal Republican, reiterated his view that the Watergate issue should be resolved by the impeachment process. He said yesterday, however, that if the issue is not resolved by the first of the year the President's power to govern would be so severely impaired that "he will have no choice but to resign."

GOP Minority Whip Robert Griffin of Michigan said Buckley's proposal "is bound to have a profound impact" because it was a "personal decision by a very able and respected colleague."

Senator Dewey F. Bartlett, of Oklahoma, a conservative Republican, disagreed with Buckley because "forcing a president to resign because of public clamor could cause irreparable damage to the constitutional office of the presidency."

Representative Walter Flowers of Alabama, a conservative Democrat, said "I must emphatically disagree with Senator Buckley — the President should not resign, for to do so would be interpreted by the vast majority of our fellow citizens as an admission of wrongdoing tantamount to a guilty plea in court."

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