

# Javits Says Nixon Plays 'Impeachment Politics'

## Senator Charges Plan to Win Conservatives' Votes

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WASHINGTON, April 3 — Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York warned President Nixon today against playing "impeachment politics" by trimming his legislative programs "to please a given number of senators: 33 plus one."

New York's other Senator, James L. Buckley, meanwhile, criticized Mr. Nixon for the "narrow," "technical" and "legal" character of his defense in the impeachment proceeding, instead of hoped-for candor. He used the President's own words, in accepting the resignations of H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, to buttress his proposal of two weeks ago that the President resign although innocent of wrongdoing, to restore confidence in government.

Gerald Warren, deputy White House press secretary, disputed Mr. Javits' charge of "impeachment politics," but said that he had not seen Mr. Buckley's remarks.

"As a member of the Senate, Senator Javits of course has the right to express himself, but in this case he's wrong," Mr. Warren said.

### Legislature Shifts Cited

Mr. Javits, a liberal Republican who supported President Nixon's candidacies in both 1968 and 1972, said that he feared that the Administration was abandoning legislative programs to please Senate conservatives, in hope of gaining 34 votes needed to block an impeachment conviction, which requires a two-thirds vote.

"The fact is, there has been a pulling away on domestic legislation," Senator Javits told a Capitol Hill news conference.

The Senator cited alleged Administration shifts on mass transit, consumer protection, welfare reform and land use.

"I feel there are some disquieting tendencies in the air," Mr. Javits said.



The New York Times  
Senator Jacob K. Javits at news session yesterday.

He spoke out, he said, "before they develop into a serious deterioration of the capacity of government and the actual operation of the Presidency."

Asked if he had any second thoughts about his support of Mr. Nixon's Presidential candidacies, Mr. Javits said: "It would be demeaning for me to comment on my support at that time."

The Senator also noted that under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, President Nixon could voluntarily relinquish office for a temporary period. Asked if he was urging such an action, Mr. Javits said that, if the President asked his opinion, he would give it, but he would not confide his thoughts to the public at large.

Senator Buckley, a New York Republican-Conservative who stunned the nation on March 19 with his proposal that President Nixon resign, said again today that "the President's position has deteriorated beyond repair."

"There is nothing that Richard Nixon can do or say, no action that the Congress can

## Buckley Criticizes Tactics of President's Defense

take or fail to take, that will restore the credibility and moral authority that are essential to effective Presidential leadership," Mr. Buckley said in a speech prepared for delivery to students at the University of Delaware.

The Senator said that one of the most "disheartening" aspects of the impeachment proceedings was "the manner in which the President has sought to narrow the focus to one of a technical, legal character."

### No Judgment Offered

"What the public had longed for, what his friends in Congress and everywhere also had awaited, what all of us had been promised and were entitled to see, was precisely that kind of defense which had convincing attributes of candor rather than the measured phrases of the well-schooled and cautious lawyer," Senator Buckley said.

He again offered no judgment on the President's guilt or innocence in the Watergate case, but used Mr. Nixon's own words to support his proposal that the President resign regardless of culpability.

Senator Buckley quoted from Mr. Nixon's statement accepting the resignations of Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman.

"I want to stress that in accepting these resignations, I mean to leave no implication whatever of personal wrongdoing on their part," Mr. Nixon said on April 30, 1973. "But in matters as sensitive as guarding the integrity of our democratic process, it is essential not only that rigorous legal and ethical standards be observed, but also that the public, you, have total confidence that they are both being observed and enforced by those in authority and particularly by the President of the United States. They agreed with me that this move was necessary in order to restore that confidence."