

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. August 15, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.)

today expressed concern over a series of Federal Communications Commission decisions that appear to relegate the Presidency to the level of partisanship in "vital areas of foreign affairs."

"The 5-2 FCC decision handed down yesterday refuses to recognize that the President speaks as the President of the entire nation in the area of foreign affairs," Dole said.

"Instead it calls him the 'leading spokesman for one side' on the very grave issues of war and peace."

Dole asked, "Who then speaks for the country in these vital areas of foreign affairs?"

"Who speaks to the nation and to the world regarding American policies now that the FCC appears to have related the Presidency to the level of a partisan Senator even in our dealings with other nations? It is Senator Fulbright or Senator McGovern or Senator Hatfield or all three or someone else?"

"I cannot really believe that the FCC means to downgrade the office of the Presidency of the United States to where the President is merely a member of a debating squad with him on one side and anybody with an opposing view, whether it be a Senator or a city councilman, on the other.

"There must be more to the decision than the press has reported or else, sad to say, FCC members do not understand the Constitutional role of the President as President of all the people, as the Commander in Chief and as the Chief Executive.

"I cannot believe either that the FCC really believes that network TV coverage has even slightly favored the President's conduct of a war he inherited from two Democratic Administrations and is now in the process of bringing to an honorable conclusion.

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"Perhaps under the FCC ruling the President should no longer speak out about the war or about any other issue of major concern to the American people.

"Certainly the ruling presents a dilemma for the President since it apparently will subject him to televised attack by any Senator or citizen who may have an opposite view.

"Certainly this ruling raises more questions than it answers. One pertinent question is, how did the FCC arrive at its conclusions?

"I would like to see the full results of their study -- if they made one.

"In addition, I believe it is time an independent study of television's entire treatment of the news is made and made public so that the public can have confidence in FCC rulings such as these.

"Finally, I am at a loss to understand how, in the interest of maintaining fairness in a federally-licensed medium, the FCC can rule that wealthy Senate doves can buy as much time as they wish to propagandize their views, but that the side supporting the President cannot have time to reply, merely because it has no funds."