

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 225-6521

482

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 11 -- Ten U.S. Senators have joined Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) in filing a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission requesting the FCC compel the National Broadcasting Company to provide free time to those opposing the "End the War Amendment" to present their views.

Senators signing the letter (besides Dole) were: Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.); Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.); Edward Gurney (R-Fla.); Paul Fannin (R-Ariz.); Carl Curtis (R-Neb.); Robert Griffin (R-Mich.); Ralph Smith (R-Ill.); Gordon Allott (R-Colo.); Peter Dominick (R-Colo.); Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

Text of the letter follows:

On July 7 a telegram was sent to the President of the National Broadcasting Company, Mr. Julian Goodman, requesting broadcasting time to respond to a May 12 NBC program sponsored by the Amendment to End the War Committee. This program was a one-half hour prime time telecast which solicited funds in support of the so-called Amendment to End the War. On July 8, Mr. Corydon B. Dunham, an NBC Vice President, rejected this request for comparable, free time to counter the May 12 broadcast.

Then on July 9, a renewed request to NBC for broadcast time to present contrasting views specifically on the End the War Amendment was made. It was pointed out in the telegram that the coverage NBC cited as presenting both sides of the issue did not deal directly with the Amendment. Disregarding this consideration, NBC again rejected the request in a telegram from Mr. Goodman, who only pointed to an hour long broadcast on the issue of Cambodia in general which was televised July 9.

We feel that NBC has not presented contrasting views on the issue of the End the War Amendment as required by the Fairness Doctrine. And since the National Broadcasting Company has not recognized the importance of presenting both sides of the specific issue involved in the Amendment to End the War debate, our only recourse is to ask the Federal Communications Commission to compel NBC to grant us comparable time without cost to present the viewpoints of those who oppose the Amendment.