

CONFERENCE TELEPHONE CALL, WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1959

The Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee / approved this morning / with minor changes / my bill to clarify the "equal time" provisions / of the Communications Act. On my motion / we made the bill a committee bill. It will be placed on the Senate calendar / for expected early action / by the full Senate.

The heart of the bill reads as follows: QUOTE "Appearance by a legally qualified candidate on any newscast, news interview, news documentary, on-the-spot coverage of news events / or panel discussion, shall not be deemed to be use of a broadcasting station / within the meaning of this subsection." UNQUOTE

The bill <sup>as amended</sup> also states / that it is the intention of Congress to reexamine this amendment / from time to time, with the advice of the Federal Communications Commission, to determine that the public interest is being protected / and to assure equal treatment / of all legally qualified candidates for office.

END