

86TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2424

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 1959

Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

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## AN ACT

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to provide that the equal-time provisions with respect to candidates for public office shall not apply to news and other similar programs.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That section 315 (a) of the Communications Act of 1934 is  
4 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:  
5 “Appearance by a legally qualified candidate on any news-  
6 cast, news interview, news documentary, on-the-spot cover-  
7 age of news events, shall not be deemed to be use of a broad-  
8 casting station within the meaning of this subsection, but  
9 nothing in this sentence shall be construed as changing the

1 basic intent of Congress with respect to the provisions of  
2 this Act, which recognizes that television and radio fre-  
3 quencies are in the public domain, that the license to operate  
4 in such frequencies requires operation in the public interest,  
5 and that in newscasts, news interviews, news documentaries,  
6 on-the-spot coverage of news events, all sides of public con-  
7 troversies shall be given as fair an opportunity to be heard as  
8 is practically possible.”

9       SEC. 2. (a) The Congress declares its intention to re-  
10 examine the amendment to section 315(a) of the Com-  
11 munications Act of 1934 made by the first section of this  
12 Act, at or before the end of the three-year period beginning  
13 on the date of the enactment of this Act, to ascertain whether  
14 the remedy provided by such amendment has proved to be  
15 effective and practicable.

16       (b) To assist the Congress in making the reexamina-  
17 tion of the amendment made by the first section of this Act,  
18 the Federal Communications Commission shall make a report  
19 to the Congress, within fifteen days after the close of the  
20 year beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and  
21 within fifteen days after the close of each of the following two  
22 years, setting forth (1) the information and data used by  
23 it in determining questions arising from or connected with

1 such amendment, and (2) such recommendations as it deems  
2 necessary to protect the public interest and to assure equal  
3 treatment of all legally qualified candidates for public office  
4 under section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934.

Passed the Senate July 28, 1959.

Attest:

FELTON M. JOHNSTON,

*Secretary.*

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