



# SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGNER



873 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10003, tel. (212) 673-0790

Fred Halstead for President

Paul Boutelle for Vice-President

July 18, 1968

To All Campaign Directors and YSHB Organizers:

Dear Friends,

It's important that campaign supporters obtain as much radio and TV time for the national and local SWP candidates as possible. The broadcast media is a vehicle for exposing millions of people to our socialist campaign who otherwise would not be reached.

Local campaign committees have reported encouraging results in this regard. In the period Sept., 1967 to April, 1968 an estimated total of 37 hours of radio time and 2½ hours of TV time were obtained. This amount of broadcast time would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars if it were to be purchased. Recently Fred Halstead and Paul Boutelle debated William Buckley on his hour-long, nationally syndicated television show, "Firing Line." The program was taped and will be broadcast in September and October. (We'll send out a city-by-city schedule for this program next month.) The New York Senatorial candidate Hedda Garza has been on several talk shows and many inquiries have come in as a result of her giving the campaign headquarters address over the air and offering a free sample copy of The Militant.

Most of the radio and TV time obtained for the candidates thus far has resulted from holding press conferences and getting the candidates on talk shows. There will be many opportunities for obtaining this type of coverage in the coming months.

In addition, radio and TV time can be obtained on the basis of the "equal time" law. Fred Halstead recently appeared for 20 minutes on the Alan Burke (television) Show in New York as a result of an equal time request (see attached letter to WNEW-TV).

**BRING THE GIs HOME FROM VIETNAM  
BLACK CONTROL OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

Section 315a (the "equal time" provision) of the Federal Communications Act is attached. Federal Communications definitions and regulations relating to equal time are also included. This law applies to all candidates for public office. Note that various types of news programs are exempt. Note also that requests for equal time must be made within a week of the initial broadcast.

In order that our national and local candidates get all the radio and TV time they are legally entitled to, the local campaign committees across the country will have to function as a sort of monitoring network. Urge campaign supporters in your area to pay close attention to local radio and TV broadcasts and report every appearance of opponent candidates, national or local, on non-exempt programs. Equal time report forms such as the one attached can be mimeographed and distributed to all campaign supporters in your area, and included as part of regional campaign newsletters.

A responsible person in each area should make the equal time requests. The request should be made by telegram or registered mail (so we have a record of receipt) with one copy to Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554, one copy to the national campaign office, and one copy for the local files.

Fraternally,



Jon Britton  
Campaign Staff

C O P Y

C O P Y

C O P Y

June 3, 1968

President WNEW-TV  
205 East 67<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Last night, June 2, 1968, eight candidates for the presidency of the United States were interviewed on WNEW-TV during a program "Our Next President." The program ran from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m.

The Socialist Workers Party 1968 National Campaign Committee hereby requests that you schedule equal time for Fred Halstead, the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. We ask that Mr. Halstead be given time equal to that given to each of the other candidates who appeared on the program referred to above, approximately ten minutes, and that the broadcast time for Mr. Halstead be at a similar time of day. This request is in accordance with Section 315 of the Federal Communications Act. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Federal Communications Commission.

The Socialist Workers Party is conducting a vigorous national campaign, and expects to be on the ballot in no fewer than twenty states, including New York, at the time of the fall election. In the Choice 68 national collegiate presidential primary conducted by Time magazine, Fred Halstead received five times as many votes as did Harold Stassen, who was one of the candidates interviewed on your program.

We feel that serious and immediate attention should be given to our request. We are waiting for your reply in order to work out the arrangements.

Yours truly,

Douglas Jenness  
Assistant Campaign Director

cc: Federal Communications Commission

Section 315a of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended in 1959, reads as follows:

"(a) If any licensee shall permit any person who is a legally qualified candidate for any public office to use a broadcasting station, he shall afford equal opportunities to all other such candidates for that office in the use of such broadcasting station: Provided, that such licensee shall have no power of censorship over the material broadcast under the provisions of this section. No obligation is imposed upon any licensee to allow the use of its station by any such candidate. Appearance by a legally qualified candidate on any --

- (1) bona fide newscast,
- (2) bona fide news interview,
- (3) bona fide news documentary (if the appearance of the candidate is incidental to the presentation of the subject or subjects covered by the news documentary), or
- (4) on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events (including but not limited to political conventions and activities incidental thereto),

shall not be deemed to be use of a broadcasting station within the meaning of this subsection. Nothing in the foregoing sentence shall be construed as relieving broadcasters, in connection with the presentation of newscasts, news interviews, news documentaries, and on-the-spot coverage of news events, from the obligation imposed on them under this chapter to operate in the public interests and to afford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of conflicting views on the issues of public importance..."

The following are definitions and regulations established by the Federal Communications Commission to implement Section 315a:

Definitions--(a) A "legally qualified candidate" means any person who has publicly announced that he is a candidate for nomination by a convention of a political party or for nomination or election in a primary, special or general election, municipal, county, state, or national and who meets the qualifications prescribed by the applicable laws to hold the office for which he is a candidate, so that he may be voted for by the electorate directly or by means of delegates or electors, and who

- (1) has qualified for a place on the ballot or
- (2) is eligible under the applicable law to be voted by sticker, by writing in his name on the ballot, or other method, and (1) has been duly nominated by a political party which is commonly known and regarded as such, or (2) make a substantial showing that he is a bona fide candidate for nomination or office, as the case may be.

(b) General requirements--No station licensee is required to permit the use of its facilities by any legally qualified candidate for public office, but if any licensee shall permit any such candidate to use its facilities, it shall afford equal opportunities to all other such candidates: Provided, that such licensee shall have no power of censorship over the material broadcast by any such candidate.

(c) Rates and practices--(1) The rates, if any, charged all such candidates for the same office shall be uniform and shall not be rebated by any means direct or indirect. A candidate shall, in each case, be charged no more than the rate the station would charge if the

candidate were a commercial advertiser whose advertising was directed to promoting its business within the same area as that encompassed by the particular office for which such person is a candidate. All discount privileges otherwise offered by a station to commercial advertisers shall be available upon equal terms to all candidates for public office.

(2) In making time available to candidates for public office no licensee shall make any discrimination between candidates in charges, practices, regulations, facilities, or services for or in connection with the service rendered pursuant to this part, or make or give any preference to any candidate for public office or subject any such candidate to any prejudice or disadvantage; nor shall any licensee make any contract or other agreement which shall have the effect of permitting any legally qualified candidate for any public office to broadcast to the exclusion of other legally qualified candidates for the same public office.

(d) Records: inspections,--Every licensee shall keep and permit public inspection of a complete record of all requests for broadcast time made by or on behalf of candidates for public office, together with an appropriate notation showing the disposition made by the licensee of such request, and the charges made, if any, if request is granted. Such records shall be retained for a period of two years.

(e) A request for equal opportunities must be submitted to the licensee within one week of the day on which the prior use occurred.

(f) A candidate requesting such equal opportunities of the licensee, or complaining of non-compliance to the Commission, shall have the burden of providing that he and his opponent are legally qualified candidates for the same public office.

Copies of the FCC Regulations can be gotten by writing to FCC, Washington, D.C. 20554 or to the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

EQUAL TIME REPORT FORM

Keep several of these forms near your radio or TV. Fill out the form and hand in to local campaign public relations director if any opponent candidate, national or local, is provided the use of a broadcast facility in your area. Do this promptly. Any request for equal time must be made within a week of the initial broadcast.

City.....Station Call Letters.....

Radio.... AM.... FM.... TV.....

Name of Program.....

Format of program.....

Date..... Time.....

Candidate(s) appearing on program and office for which he (they) is (are) running: .....

Approximate length of time broadcast facility used by each candidate: .....

Comments.....

Note: The following types of news programs are exempt from the equal time requirement:

- 1) bona fide newscast (Like Huntley-Brinkley)
- 2) bona fide news interviews (like Meet the Press)\*
- 3) bona fide news documentary (if the appearance of the candidate is incidental to the presentation of the subject or subjects covered by the news documentary.
- 4) on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events (including but not limited to political conventions and activities incidental thereto).

If you are not sure if a candidate's appearance is exempt fill out the form anyway.

\*Assume however that any "special edition" of a news interview program on which candidates appear is a basis for an equal time request.