

[May 10, 1983]

[Ability to Respond to Certain Broadcast Messages]

AMENDMENT TO H.R. _____

OFFERED BY MR. WIRTH

Add at the end thereof the following new section:

1 SEC. ____ . (a) Funds authorized to be appropriated under
2 this Act to the Federal Communications Commission shall be
3 used by the Commission to prescribe (and make effective not
4 later than January 1, 1984) a regulation which provides
5 that, if any broadcasting licensee permits--

6 (1) any person or political committee, as defined in
7 section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
8 (2 U.S.C. 431), or

9 (2) any agent of such person or political committee,
10 to purchase broadcasting time to discuss an issue of public
11 importance (including criticism of a candidate's views or
12 qualifications to hold public office), the licensee shall
13 offer the opportunity to the supporters of the candidate
14 whose views or qualifications for public office were
15 criticized (or to responsible supporters of a significant
16 contrasting view, if the issue discussed was other than a
17 criticism of the views or qualifications of a candidate) to
18 present, without charge, a response on such broadcasting
19 station during the same period of the day and for the same

1 amount of time. Such licensee shall have no power of
2 censorship over the material required to be broadcast under
3 this subsection.

4 (b) The regulation prescribed under subsection (a) shall
5 not apply to require the use of any broadcasting station for
6 responses to statements broadcast by a candidate, a
7 political committee authorized by a candidate, or a
8 political committee authorized by a political party during
9 an election period.