

F.C.C. Petitioned to Curb Talks By Nixon on TV About War

By JACK GOULD

A group of Yale University professors, law students and leaders of the New Haven black coalition have filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission asking a curb on President Nixon's access to the television networks when opponents of the Indochina war have not been accorded an equal opportunity for air time.

After President Nixon's speech on Cambodia the Columbia Broadcasting System and American Broadcasting Company refused to make evening time available under any conditions to five dissenting Senators. The National Broadcasting Company made a half-hour available at a price estimated to have been in excess of \$70,000.

The Yale contingent, operating under the name of the Committee for Fair Broadcasting of Controversial Issues, argued that the F.C.C.'s "fairness doctrine" has been thwarted if President Nixon can enjoy free time to justify his policies in Southeast Asia while antiwar opponents of the President "do not have access to the same wide audience during a substantial bloc of uninterrupted time." "It's as if the President had a megaphone and soap box while everyone else is required to whisper," the group declared in a statement.

The controversy over the Cambodian war has raised a new issue for the F.C.C. In his capacity as head of state and commander in chief, the President normally is accorded time upon request. But a number of

Congressmen opposed to the President are wondering whether speeches on the war are really political rather than mere reports to the nation.

In its petition, the Yale group asked the F.C.C. to order all stations to desist from "violating the fairness doctrine with respect to Presidential speeches on Vietnam." The petition is directed against WCBS-TV in New York and WTIC-TV, the Columbia Broadcasting System affiliate in Hartford, Conn., but the committee said it was asking application of the desist order to all stations across the country.

The F.C.C. had no immediate comment.

Among those joining in the petition are:

Thomas I. Emerson and Harry Wellington, professors of law.

Alfred Fitt, former Army general counsel, now associated with the Yale administration.

Robert A. Dahl, professor of political science.

James Tobin, professor of economics.

Kenneth Keniston, professor of psychology.

Kai T. Erickson, professor of sociology.

Vernon Moore, executive director of New Haven's Black Coalition.

J. Otis Cochran, national chairman of the Black American Law Students Association.

Richard Cass and Brent Henry, trustees of Princeton University and students at the Yale Law School.

John Kecker, former United States Marine Corps first lieutenant (retired), and William Brockett, graduate of the United States Naval Academy, combat veterans now attending Yale Law School.