

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1054

By: Sullivan (Leonard)

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution condemning certain actions by television station WSB-TV and the Atlanta, Georgia police force; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, freedom of speech is one of our most cherished freedoms, a freedom which should not be usurped by the state or by the institution which should be the valiant defender of this freedom, the press; and

WHEREAS, the right of the electorate of this nation to be able to make an informed decision concerning the candidates for elected office depends on the press and electronic news media providing a forum for the views of all candidates for such offices; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government should assist in ensuring the access of candidates to public forum and should not assist in activities which limit or deny that access; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1996, a candidate for President, Alan Keyes, was denied access to a debate for presidential candidates, conducted by WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, and was detained by police, handcuffed, and taken away from the television studio; and

WHEREAS, such actions cannot be tolerated in a free society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the actions of television station WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, and the police force of Atlanta, Georgia, in denying presidential candidate Alan Keyes access to a presidential debate, are hereby condemned as actions that are not in keeping with the basic rights of citizens of this country.

THAT copies of this resolution be dispatched to the Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia and to television station WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia.

45-2-9612

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