

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Networks Silent as EPA Official Resigns for Remarks 05.08.2012

From *NewsBusters*...

“AP reports that the EPA’s Al Armendariz has resigned after ‘Republicans targeted him’ over his 2010 remarks on videotape comparing the agency’s enforcement strategy to Roman crucifixions. This was a hot story in conservative circles, but what about the liberal media? This resignation didn’t come from their coverage.

The crucifixion remarks – exposed last Wednesday by Sen. Jim Inhofe – drew no coverage on ABC, CBS, NBC, or the PBS NewsHour. NPR had no story on this, but mentioned EPA on Thursday’s Morning Edition on a gasoline blend with more ethanol. MSNBC offered nothing in their prime-time shows. *USA Today* had nothing, and *The New York Times* kept it contained to their Green blog.

‘It is kind of like how the Romans used to conquer villages in the Mediterranean - they’d go into a little Turkish town somewhere and they’d find the first five guys they saw and they’d crucify them,’ Armendariz said on the 2010 tape. ‘Then that little town was really easy to manage for the next few years.’

This is not how the networks covered George W. Bush’s EPA. For example, about 10 years ago, an EPA official named Eric Schaeffer resigned in protest of Bush policies. **That resignation was reported with fervor by ABC, CBS, NBC, and by Brian Williams on MSNBC.** Then George Stephanopoulos interviewed him one on one for “This Week.”

Media Discounts Those Who Give Up Jobs Search

From *Media Research Center*...

“About 45,000 fewer jobs were added in April than economists expected, and the unemployment rate dropped to 8.1 percent due to more than a half million people giving up the job search. CNN Money reacted with the headline ‘hiring fizzles.’ The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the April report on May 4 showing 115,000 jobs added and an 8.1 percent unemployment rate. It was the second disappointing jobs report in a row from the BLS. **Following the March jobs report which showed only 120,000 jobs gained, a huge disappointment when 200,000 were forecast, the media coverage was filled with spin especially on MSNBC.**

One of the arguments made by a number of media outlets, including MSNBC, was that a single month with a bad jobs report is not important as the trend, and the trend is good. Will they still be able to say that after April’s disappointing report?

During Martin Bashir’s program the picture on the screen said **“Upswing” with picture of people in suits.** Bashir interviewed journalist and author William Cohan who said this month’s data was a ‘pothole’ and that one month is **less important than the trend.**

‘The last three months we’ve created an average of 212,000 jobs a month, which is pretty darn good, and the overall rate of unemployment has come down to about 8.2 -- some people have said, ‘well, that’s because people have stopped looking for jobs’ -- but look, I think we’re on a very solid trend now. As you said, 4 million new jobs in four years, that’s something to be pretty proud of,’ Cohan said. But neither Bashir, nor Cohan pointed out that since February 2009 there has still been a net loss of 740,000 jobs. And the Obama administration has fallen far from keeping its jobs promises..... **While Caroline Baum of *Bloomberg News* claimed there is little difference between 120,000 and 220,000 jobs ... ‘In a labor force of about 155 million, 100,000 is a rounding error.’ *Time Magazine*’s Adam Sorenson also spun the March report with the claim of statistical noise.’” Newspapers, like the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, have also been guilty of downplaying the numbers of those leaving the workforce search.**

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
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