

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Washington Post Ombudsman Urges Reform

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From Accuracy in Media's Don Irvine...

“*Washington Post* Ombudsman Patrick Pexton expressed his concern about opinion pieces appearing on the front page of the newspaper and called for them to be labeled ‘news analysis’ or ‘opinion’ when appearing on the first two pages of the paper. Pexton said he found it jarring to see columnists appearing on the front page when he arrived at the *Post* last year, leading him to ask, ‘Shouldn’t that page be reserved for important domestic, foreign and local news?’ Which it should.

Managing Editor Liz Spayd sees nothing wrong in running columns ‘by some popular *Post* voices’ on the front page....Spayd also told Pexton that she has guidelines for what can appear on the front page and that columns that take sides in a political dispute or have a clear ideological bent don’t make the cut. Of course that is a subjective decision, based on how Spayd views the column or columnists....

Pexton concludes with the following recommendation: ‘I think that any opinion column appearing on Page A1 should carry an additional label announcing it as news analysis. Columns on Page A2 should also be labeled ‘opinion’ or ‘news analysis.’ Readers deserve the clarity.’

Big Three Wait Five Days to Report Obama’s Attack on Business

From Newsbusters...

“When Barack Obama insulted job creators everywhere last Friday, by charging: ‘If you’ve got a business, you didn’t build that, somebody else made that happen,’ the Big Three (ABC, CBS, NBC) networks didn’t pounce on the politically damaging remark. It took five daysbefore the first network mention - by Peter Alexander on NBC *Nightly News*. In fact, Obama’s soundbite was ran exactly once in the aforementioned Alexander report. Neither CBS or ABC ran Obama’s actual quote.

....ABC has yet to run a clip of Obama’s anti-business rant. Instead Josh Elliott, on Wednesday’s *Good Morning America*, could only offer [a] vague recounting of the most recent.... fight.”

Pelley on Obamacare

From Paul Bedard's Mainstream Scream...

“Our.... look at the loudest screech from the mainstream media features CBS Evening News anchor Scott Pelley who fretted the ‘cost to taxpayers’ of the time the House used to repeal Obamacare. ‘How much it cost taxpayers for the House to repeal the law again and again?’ Pelley said, citing a report that the House ‘costs us \$24 million a week. So with two weeks spent repealing the law, that comes to a little under \$50 million.’

Media Research Center Vice President of Research Brent Baker explains: ‘Obamacare will cost \$2.6 trillion over the next 10 years, but CBS is more upset by the cost of the House debating its repeal? Since that \$50 million would have been spent no matter what issue the House works on, Pelley’s point seemed more political than factually illuminating.’

Rating: Four out of five screams.”