

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Co-Chair

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

The Media Campaigns for ObamaCare

03.27.2011

From the Media Research Center...

“Next week, the Supreme Court will hear arguments on the constitutionality of ObamaCare, **but if the media were the judges, the Court would rule 9-0 in favor of it.** During its coverage of the health care debate, the liberal press never permitted questions about ObamaCare’s legality to interfere with their dream of a government takeover of the health care sector.

Starting even before Obama became President, the press has been campaigning hard for passage of the most liberal version of health care reform as a cure-all elixir to all of America’s health problems. First, they pitched the public on the desperate need to, as ABC’s Dr. Johnson demanded, fix America’s ‘national shame’ of no universal coverage. Then **they ignored the history of Medicare, Medicaid and every other entitlement program** as they praised the liberal plan as fiscally prudent with reporters like CBS’s...ludicrously proclaiming it would ‘actually reduce the deficit’ and save ‘billions.’

However, it wasn’t enough to hype the plan, but also to lionize and encourage its supporters. ABC’s Sawyer hailed Nancy Pelosi’s efforts to pass the politically unpopular ObamaCare as “an epic blend of persuasion, muscle and will.” NBC’s Mitchell urged Democratic Congressman Elijah Cummings to deliver a win for Obama on the issue: “You’ve got to get this for him.”

Of course, any one who dared oppose Pelosi and her colleagues was demonized. When outraged voters started showing up at townhall meetings, at Tea Party rallies and on Capitol Hill, they were derided as ‘ugly’ by CBS’s Reid and even sexist and racist. MSNBC’s Matthews obnoxiously pondered if ObamaCare opponents were ‘really angry about...an African American president and a woman Speaker?’ **Matthews’ MSNBC colleague, Schultz, went as far to absurdly accuse the GOP of wanting to commit mass murder as he screamed: ‘The Republicans lie! They want to see you dead!’**

Politico Ignores Debt Increases Under Obama

From *NewsBusters*...

“CBS’s Knoller reported Monday evening.... that ‘**The National Debt has now increased more during President Obama’s three years and two months in office than it did during 8 years of the George W. Bush presidency. The Debt rose \$4.899 trillion during the two terms of the Bush presidency. It has now gone up \$4.939 trillion since President Obama took office,**’ the veteran White House correspondent noted.

But for all their professed obsession with all things inside the Beltway, *Politico* has so far failed to cover the story.... Searches of the *Politico* website for “national debt” or “Bureau of Public Debt” between March 19 and March 22 **yield no hits.** By contrast, when then-President-elect Obama was gearing up to take office, *Politico* was certain to skewer Bush for leaving him a massive national debt....

Writing in ‘Obama faces uphill economic battle’ on the morning of Inauguration Day 2009, Cummings gushed that, ‘Presidents often crave a period of great challenges that can etch their names in history. Barack Obama stands on the precipice of such a time.’ ...Nine days earlier, *Politico* ran an *Associated Press* post that excoriated outgoing President Bush for his federal fiscal stewardship.

Also of note is that while *Politico* is ignoring how debt under President Obama has outpaced the growth of debt under President Bush, the paper has sharpened its knives for the budget plan presented by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), helping to further the Democrats’ meme that it’s a ‘Christmas’ gift to Democrats because of the cuts to entitlements it could bring. That’s right, the very entitlements that Cummings in January 2009 held out hope that Obama could rein in from devastating ever-ballooning costs....”

Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
For more information please contact Emily Sanders at 202-225-3926 or Emily.Sanders@mail.house.gov