

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

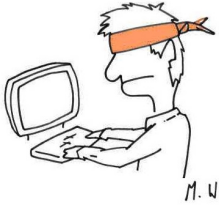
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Media Ignore Rulings Against Administration

2/9/11



Last week, a Louisiana Federal District Court Judge found that the Interior Department was in contempt of his ruling that the offshore oil drilling moratorium, imposed by the Obama administration in 2010, was unconstitutional. **The television media, including ABC, NBC, CBS, and CNN, all ignored the story, according to the Media Research Center.**

Earlier in the week, the media largely ignored another court ruling against the Obama Administration, wherein a federal judge in Florida found that the President's health care law is unconstitutional. The national media should give Americans the facts, not protect the Obama Administration.

Politico Editors Deny Liberal Media Bias

In a Feb. 7 article, Politico editors Jim VandeHei and John Harris inexplicably claimed there is no liberal bias in the national media:

“Conservatives are convinced the vast majority of reporters at mainstream news organizations are liberals who hover expectantly for each new issue of The Nation. It’s just not true ... The majority of political writers we know might more accurately be accused of centrist bias.”

The evidence to the contrary is overwhelming. For example, journalists who gave to President Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign outnumbered those who contributed to Sen. McCain by a margin of 20-to-1. A UCLA study rated 18 of 20 major news outlets as more liberal than the typical American voter. And the nonpartisan Project for Excellence in Journalism found that media coverage of Sen. McCain was three times more negative than coverage of Sen. Obama during the campaign.

The Rest of the Worst in Media Bias

- On Monday, CNN devoted three and a half minutes of coverage to a protest by “two dozen, maybe three dozen” people who were against two proposed laws targeting illegal immigration in Arizona. The network showed live and taped footage of this liberal protest. By contrast, **CNN spent a mere 11 seconds to the March for Life in January** and showed no footage from the pro-life demonstration. (Media Research Center)
- “Anyone who’s thinking of running for president against [President Obama] should go watch that speech ... it was brilliant performance. This guy has game. If you want to add, make a long list - what are all the reasons Barack Obama is favored for being re-elected? ... **That performance has a level of sophistication and skill that not one Republican on the field right now can duplicate.**” – Time Magazine’s Mark Halperin on MSNBC’s Hardball, Feb. 3, 2011
- During their coverage of AOL’s purchase of The Huffington Post, **CBS’s Evening News and NBC’s Today Show failed to mention the blog’s clear liberal slant. In contrast, the national media regularly label right-leaning news outlets and elected officials as “conservative.”**

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