



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



Journalists Admit Media Enamored with Obama

2/4/09

Cynthia McFadden, co-anchor of ABC's *Nightline*, admitted recently that many members of the media saw President Obama as a "bright hope in the distance" during coverage of the 2008 presidential campaign.

During an interview with *TV Newser* editor Steve Krakauer, McFadden said: **"Is it clear that a lot of people in the media business thought he was a, you know, bright, bright hope in the distance? Yeah."**

In December, *Washington Post* Ombudsman Deborah Howell, acknowledged that her newspaper needed more diversity in the newsroom: **"Make a serious effort to cover political and social conservatives and their issues; the paper tends to shy away from those stories, leaving conservatives feeling excluded and alienated from the paper. I'd like those who have canceled their subscriptions to be readers again. Too many Post staff members think alike; more diversity of opinion should be welcomed."**



National Media Spell 'Scandal' without the 'D'

The media often have neglected to mention the party affiliation of numerous Democrats embroiled in scandals or ethical controversies in recent months.

Last week the governor of Illinois was removed from office. All three television networks ran full reports on the story that same night and again the following morning. **Not one report mentioned that he is a Democrat.**

Earlier in the week, ABC's Good Morning America featured four segments on the Governor, running a total of over 17 minutes. **During that entire time, not one host or reporter mentioned that he is a Democrat.**

Americans need and deserve fairness from the media, not selective omissions and double standards.



Networks Blame GOP for Partisanship on Stimulus

CBS' Chip Reid: **"... Republicans relentlessly attacked the bill despite the President's extraordinary efforts to get bipartisan support."**

CBS' Katie Couric: **"... the President went up to the Hill to personally appeal to Republicans already ... what more can he do?"**

ABC's Charles Gibson: **"Not one Republican voted for it, turning a cold shoulder to the President's appeal for bipartisan support."**