



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



Networks Help President Obama Promote Stimulus 3/24/09



The three major networks featured overwhelmingly positive coverage of President Obama's stimulus package, according to a new report from the Business and Media Institute (BMI). Among BMI's findings:

"All three broadcast networks favored pro-stimulus speakers ... more than any who dared critique the stimulus package. **Supporters outnumbered critics by a total of more than 2-to-1 for the three networks.**

"Pro-stimulus economists outnumbered those who questioned the package by a ratio of 5-to-1.

"ABC's slanted use of economic 'experts' made it the worst of the three networks covering the debate. Pro-stimulus economists outnumbered opponents 9-to-1."

Media Ignore Immigration Polls

Last week, a Rasmussen poll of likely voters found that 67% support the government conducting enforcement actions to identify and deport illegal immigrants. A majority of Republicans, Democrats and Independents all agree. Also last week, a Center for Immigration Studies found that wages improved for legal workers after a worksite enforcement operation at a large meatpacker in 2006.

Both of these studies are critical to immigration debate. The American people have a right to be informed about the facts surrounding immigration enforcement. **Unfortunately, both of these studies were largely ignored by national media organizations.**

The media has an obligation to report the facts, not just the facts that support their views.

AP: Obama Rhetoric, Reality Clash

In a March 21 article titled "PROMISES, PROMISES: Obama rhetoric, reality clash," writer Liz Sidoti highlighted the contradictions between President Obama's campaign rhetoric and his actions so far as President:

"Barack Obama's optimistic campaign rhetoric has crashed headlong into the stark reality of governing.

"In office two months, he has backpedaled on an array of issues, gingerly shifting positions as circumstances dictate while ducking for political cover to avoid undercutting his credibility and authority. That's happened on the Iraq troop withdrawal timeline, on lobbyists in his administration and on money for lawmakers' pet projects.

"As for politics, Obama campaigned as a new-style leader who chastised partisanship and renounced divisiveness in Washington. But as president, Obama's White House aides wasted little time pouncing on Republicans and mocking conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh as the GOP's leader."