



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



Media Ignore Obama's Growing Disapproval Rating 3/4/09

While national media outlets like *The New York Times* are busy asserting that President Obama is enjoying "broad support" and an "aura of good will" among Americans, **a new poll from Gallup shows the President's disapproval rating more than doubled from just over a month ago.**

The poll found that 26% of Americans now disapprove of the way the President is doing his job, up from 12% during his first days in office. Virtually all national media outlets have avoided reporting on the increasing disapproval numbers.

White House Reporter Says Media Favor Obama



At least one member of the White House press corps recognizes his colleagues' bias in favor of President Obama.

Jake Tapper, ABC's Senior White House Correspondent, said during a recent interview that some **news editors and producers are soft on the President and inclined to "root for him."** Regarding the media's bias, Tapper also said: **"Certain networks, newspapers and magazines leaned on the scales a little bit."**

It is telling that a man who sees news coverage of the President first-hand on a daily basis would be so forthcoming about the media's pro-Obama bias. When it comes to the major issues we face, Americans expect the media to be referees, not cheerleaders.

WSJ Connects Plummeting Stocks to Obama's Policies

After weeks of national media outlets ignoring the connection between plummeting stocks and President Obama's fiscal policies, the *Wall Street Journal* finally examined the correlation in an article yesterday:



"As 2009 opened, three weeks before Barack Obama took office, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 9034 on January 2, its highest level since the autumn panic. Yesterday the Dow fell another 4.24% to 6763, for an overall decline of 25% in two months and to its lowest level since 1997. The dismaying message here is that President Obama's policies have become part of the economy's problem.

"Americans have welcomed the Obama era in the same spirit of hope the President campaigned on. But after five weeks in office, it's become clear that Mr. Obama's policies are slowing, if not stopping, what would otherwise be the normal process of economic recovery. From punishing business to squandering scarce national public resources, Team Obama is creating more uncertainty and less confidence -- and thus a longer period of recession or subpar growth."