

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

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***USA Today* Refuses to Use White House Photos**

From *Accuracy in Media*...

“*USA Today* became the latest news organization refusing to use official White House photos to protest restrictions of press access...Deputy Director of Multimedia, Andrew Scott, explained the paper’s decision:

‘We do not publish, either in print or online, handout photos originating from the White House Press Office, except in very extraordinary circumstances. In those very rare instances where a handout image from the White House has been made under legitimate national security restrictions and is also of very high news value...The functions of the President at the White House are fundamentally public in nature, and should be documented for the public by independent news organizations, not solely by the White House Press Office...’

The backlash against the White House began when 38 news outlets sent a letter to White House Press Secretary Jay Carney protesting the limited access photographers were being granted to President Obama.”

‘Press Failed to Scrutinize’ Obamacare

From The *Media Research Center*...

“*Time* magazine's Mark Halperin recounted that the media did not ‘scrutinize’ Obamacare before its passage or [in] 2012...[Halperin stated], ‘There is no doubt that the press failed to scrutinize this program...I think any reporter who would argue otherwise would be putting their head in the sand...’

[Halperin concluded], ‘There's no doubt a disservice was done to the country and even to liberals who want this program to succeed because it didn't get scrutiny.’”

CNN/MSNBC Lose Nearly Half of Viewers in a Year

From *NewsBusters*...

“Data released [last week] show CNN shedding 48 percent of total viewers since last November and MSNBC dropping 45 percent. The numbers were even worse in the all important demographic of people aged 25 to 54 as CNN's ratings dropped 59 percent and MSNBC's 52 percent...

As you might imagine, prime time numbers were also down. CNN was off 54 percent in total viewers and 62 percent in the demo. MSNBC declined 50 percent in total prime time viewers and 57 percent in the demo....no matter how you slice it, the liberal cable networks fared much worse in the past twelve months than their far more centrist competitor.”