

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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CBS' "60 Minutes" Wins Lap Dog Award

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CBS' "60 Minutes" is the winner of the Media Fairness Caucus' highly un-coveted "Lap Dog Award" for this week's most glaring example of media bias.

A new book called "Game Change" has brought to light comments made by the Senate Majority Leader that many people find offensive. Some have called for his resignation as a Democratic majority leader.

On Sunday, "60 Minutes" featured a 13-minute story about the book and interviewed its authors. **Not once did "60 Minutes" mention the Majority Leader's offensive comments.** Instead, they devoted 10 minutes to negative comments about former Governor Sarah Palin.

What an astounding and inexcusable example of biased journalism. It's no wonder five out of six Americans see the national news media as "very or somewhat biased," according to a recent public opinion poll.

CBS and "60 minutes" should report the facts, not practice double standards.

Media Ignore Huge Quarterly Deficit

Last Thursday, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its Monthly Budget Review for December 2009. CBO estimates that December's federal deficit will be \$92 billion when the Treasury Department releases its Monthly Treasury Statement on Wednesday, and that the deficit for the first fiscal quarter will be "about \$390 billion."



The national media virtually ignored the CBO report, according to the Media Research Center (MRC), despite repeatedly criticizing former President Bush's administration for large budget deficits. The only national newspaper to feature the story in its print edition was the *Wall Street Journal*, according to MRC.

Objective Journalists or Obamacare Lobbyists?

"A lot of people are going to like [the health care bill] a whole lot once they see what's in it ... It's just a question of understanding it." -- ABC's Cokie Roberts on *This Week*, Dec. 20.

"We have to remember that doing nothing leaves us with the status quo, a non-system that is headed for financial and health care disaster....I would personally prefer to have the public option and/or Medicare expansion directly challenging private insurance." -- ABC's Medical Editor, Dr. Tim Johnson on *World News*, Dec. 18.

"You guys are going to probably be there late on Christmas Eve ... A lot of people say it's the Republicans' fault, that you could easily go ahead and move forward with this legislation. Are you the Grinch that stole Christmas?" -- MSNBC's Norah O'Donnell to Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) on MSNBC Live, Dec. 22.

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