

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

Media Ignore Failure of Stimulus

10/27/09



The national media have failed to acknowledge the failure of President Obama's so-called stimulus package, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute (BMI):

"The Obama administration sold its initial stimulus package claiming it would turn the economy around. They even released a report estimating that unemployment wouldn't rise above 8 percent with a stimulus package. But they were wrong. The \$787 billion of taxpayer money that would be doled out by the government failed to prevent unemployment from rising to nearly 10 percent. It also expanded the federal deficit.

But mentions of the obvious failure of the stimulus package were few and far between on the networks. In the past month, only three mentions of the stimulus package indicated it was not as successful as the administration claimed it would be. The Business & Media Institute found that ABC, CBS and NBC spun the huge growth of government by including pro-stimulus voices in stories more than twice as often as opposing voices. The networks also refused to explain how the package would be paid for in most stories."

The White House Plays Favorites with the Media

The White House plays favorites with the media. They attack one cable news network for telling the truth and reward another for giving the President a free pass. **The White House recently said Fox News is "not a news organization" and doesn't deserve equal access to Administration officials. Just days later, the President invited liberal news hosts from rival network MSNBC to the White House for a private, off-the-record meeting.**



The reason for the double standard is that while MSNBC acts as a shield for the President, Fox reports the stories that the mainstream media ignore. **For example, without Fox News, you might not have heard about the recent ACORN scandal. You might not have heard about the troubling political associations of the President's former "green jobs czar," which eventually led to his resignation. And you might not have heard that the President's communications director said Mao Zedong is one of her favorite political philosophers.**

The White House should treat all news organizations with professionalism, not only the ones that give them a free pass.

'Independent' Wash Post Endorses Almost All Democrats

The Washington Post, which features the motto "An independent newspaper" at the top of its editorial page, endorsed Democratic candidates in 25 of 29 races for the November 3 elections in Virginia.

In addition to supporting the Democrats running for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general, the paper on Friday, Saturday and Sunday weighed in on the state's House of Delegates races and picked 22 Democrats and only four Republicans. *(Courtesy of Newsbusters.org)*

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
For more information please contact Dan Rosso at 202-225-4236 or dan.rosso@mail.house.gov*