

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Newsweek Wins Lap Dog Award Again

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For the second time in a row, Newsweek is the winner of the Media Fairness Caucus' highly uncovered "Lap Dog Award" for the most glaring example of media bias. Our condolences, Newsweek. You win again.

Last week's Newsweek cover featured Vice President Al Gore with the caption, "The Thinking Man's Thinking Man." The previous Newsweek cover featured President Obama with the caption, "Yes He Can" – a variation of his campaign slogan. And Newsweek's latest cover features Governor Sarah Palin wearing running clothes. The photo originally appeared in Runner's World, but looks unusual taken out of context. The caption says Governor Palin is "Bad News for the GOP – And for Everybody Else, Too."

During the presidential campaign, Newsweek featured then-Senator Obama on its cover three times as often as Senator McCain. Newsweek and the rest of the national media should report the facts, not slant the news.

Networks Fail to Mention President's Reversal on Taxes

During the presidential campaign, then-Senator Obama made a "firm pledge" that he would not raise taxes on any family "making less than \$250,000 a year."

President Obama reversed himself on that pledge on Nov. 6 when he announced his support for the tax increase-laden health care bill that the House passed a day later.

According to the Associated Press, the House health care bill would "impose new taxes on people who don't buy qualified health insurance, including those making less than \$250,000 a year."

However, not a single network news report between Nov. 6 and Nov. 9 mentioned that the President broke his pledge to the middle class, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute (BMI). In fact, fewer than one-third of health care stories on the three networks even mentioned taxes related to the health care bill, according to BMI.

Former CNN Correspondent Says Network is Biased

A seventeen-year veteran of CNN claimed Sunday that Lou Dobbs' surprising exit from the network was because "his opinions are out of lockstep with the rest of the mainstream news media."

Discussing the issue with Howard Kurtz on CNN's "Reliable Sources," Chris Plante, a former CNN correspondent and current talk radio host, said Dobbs, as "the last conservative voice on the channel," no longer fit in. "They had Glenn Beck, he's gone. They had [Dobbs], now he's gone," claimed Plante.

When Plante said CNN hosts Campbell Brown, Anderson Cooper, and Larry King weren't "completely neutral," Kurtz asked, "Are you suggesting that those hosts lean to the left?"

Plante responded, "Yes, I am." (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*