

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

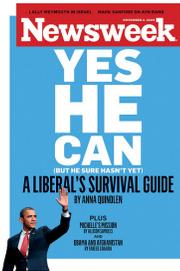
Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Co-Chair

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

Newsweek Gives President Free Advertising

11/3/09



While the image to the left appears to be a campaign poster, it actually is last week's cover of Newsweek Magazine. The cover says "Yes He Can" - a variation of the President's campaign slogan. It provides an astounding example of the national media's liberal bias.

Newsweek is the same magazine that during the presidential campaign featured then-Senator Obama on its cover three times as often as Senator McCain. No wonder 7 out of 10 Americans say the national media are intent on promoting the Obama presidency, according to a recent public opinion poll.

The national media should report the facts, not provide free advertising for the White House.

Networks Fail to Correct President's False Claim

President Obama has said health insurance companies are "making record profits, right now." **The non-partisan fact-checkers at Politifact determined that the President's claim is false. However, network news programs overwhelmingly have failed to correct the President, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).**

BMI found that in the last three months just 17 percent of network news stories regarding health insurance company profits have pointed out that health insurance companies are not making record profits, while 83 percent omitted the fact entirely.

The Associated Press reported that critics attacking insurance companies over profits "are on shaky ground." Insurance company profits "barely exceeded 2 percent of revenues in the latest annual measure," AP explained. Many industries do better than health insurance. "Farm and construction machinery, Tupperware, the railroads, Hershey sweets, Yum food brands and Yahoo" are all more profitable than health insurance companies, according to AP.

Journalists or Partisans?

"Republicans need to get the focus back onto the Big Tent where all are welcome and off **the sideshows that are popping up along the party's fringe.**" — CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric in her "Katie Couric's Notebook" video posted on CBSNews.com, October 27.

"Have centrists been frightened away from the Republican Party by the **right-wing birthers, tenthers, and town hall screamers?**" — Co-anchor David Shuster on MSNBC Live, October 20.

"What's most interesting here is **civil war inside the Republican Party.** You saw this conservative candidate just come in and swamp the Republican who was pro-choice, pro-gay rights. And what the White House is trying to do even if they lose here is exploit- is fan the flames of **this civil war.**" — George Stephanopoulos, anchor of ABC's This Week, on ABC's Good Morning America, November 2.

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
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