



# Media Fairness Initiative

## A Look at Bias in the News



### Former Reporter Takes Aim at Media Bias

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Former CBS reporter Bernard Goldberg has a new book that hit bookstands yesterday titled "A Slobbering Love Affair: The True (And Pathetic) Story of the Torrid Romance Between Barack Obama and the Mainstream Media."

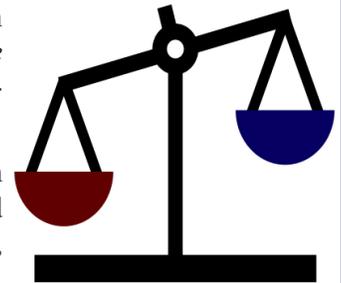
In an interview with Bill Steigerwald of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Goldberg described the book this way: **"This is not a book about the same old media bias. This time journalists cross a very bright line. This time they stopped being witnesses to history and they were intent on helping to shape history. They moved from media bias to media activism. In my whole life I have never seen the media get on board for one candidate the way they did this time around and -- this is very important -- they did it without even a hint of embarrassment."**



### NYT Shows Double Standard on AG Nominees

During John Ashcroft's attorney general confirmation process in 2001, Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee forced a week-long delay in the vote on Ashcroft. *The New York Times*, in a January 24, 2001 story, presented the Ashcroft delay in an understated way, not as a sign of disrespect to recently-elected President Bush.

Tom Daschle, an opponent of the Ashcroft appointment, was the only one quoted in the 2001 story. *The Times* focused on "several Democratic senators" who "expressed doubt that Mr. Ashcroft will fully honor his pledge, made at his confirmation hearings, to enforce laws he has opposed."



**Last week, when Senate Republicans forced a similar delay in the vote on Eric Holder, Obama's attorney general nominee, the Times took a much stronger tone, implying that the Republicans were "denying President Obama" a "key member of his national security team."**

While the *Times* in 2001 ignored Ashcroft supporters and only quoted an Ashcroft opponent, last week's story on Holder did the opposite. **The article devoted just one paragraph to the reason for the delay -- Holder's involvement in former President Clinton's controversial pardon of financier Marc Rich and his positions on counterterrorism -- compared to five paragraphs to Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy defending Holder and criticizing Republicans for the delay.**

### Would Holder be Confirmed if He Were a Republican?

From the February 9 edition of *National Review*:

**"If Eric Holder were a Republican, his nomination to be attorney general, and even more so his confirmation, would be inconceivable."**

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