



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News

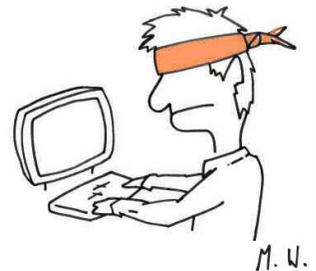


Media Ignore CBO's Negative Report on Stimulus 2/11/09

Last week, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) expressed a negative view of the economic stimulus bill before Congress. **The CBO opinion was ignored by almost every national media outlet, including the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, CBS, NBC, ABC, MSNBC, and CNN.**

Here's what CBO Director Douglas W. Elmendorf had to say (emphasis added):

“Most of the budgetary effects of the Senate legislation would occur over the next few years. **Even if the fiscal stimulus persisted, however, the short-run effects on output that operate by increasing demand for goods and services would eventually fade away ...**



To the extent that people hold their wealth in the form of government bonds rather than in a form that can be used to finance private investment, **the increased government debt would tend to ‘crowd out’ private investment—thus reducing the stock of private capital and the long-term potential output of the economy.”**

Majority Think Media Exaggerate Global Warming



Over half of American voters say the news media make global warming appear worse than it really is, according to a new Rasmussen Reports survey.

While 54 percent say the media exaggerate the threat of global warming, only 21 percent say the media present an accurate picture, according to the survey. In addition, **79 percent of Republican voters and 63 percent of independent voters say the media paint a darker picture of global warming than is warranted.**

Also, according to the survey, **“voters are shifting away from the idea ... that human activity is the cause of global warming and are viewing it instead more as the result of long-term planetary trends.”**

National Journalists or Tabloid Gossip Columnists?

“The sun glistened off [President Obama's] chiseled pectorals sculpted during four weightlifting sessions each week, and a body toned by regular treadmill runs and basketball games.” -- Washington Post reporter Eli Saslow

“The other night I dreamt of Barack Obama. He was taking a shower right when I needed to get into the bathroom to shave my legs ...” -- New York Times columnist Judith Warner

“Fit to serve: Barack Obama photographed shirtless in Hawaii and a lot of women are giving him the presidential seal of approval.” -- NBC's Matt Lauer