

# 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

## **Americans Say Media are Liberal, Lack Objectivity** 3/1/11

**By a margin of more than 3 to 1, Americans describe the national media as liberal rather than conservative, according to a recent Investor's Business Daily/TIPP public opinion poll.**

The poll also found that twice as Americans say the media are more liberal than they are compared to more conservative. Furthermore, a majority of Americans think the media's coverage of Sarah Palin has not been objective. And more Americans say the media has been unfair – rather than fair – to the Tea Party.

To restore the public's trust, the national media should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

## **Networks Show Double Standard in Coverage of Protests**

The national television networks have shown a clear double standard in their coverage of the recent protests in Wisconsin compared to their coverage of the Tea Party and other conservative protests, according to a Media Research Center (MRC) analysis:

“Last March, as thousands protested on Capitol Hill in the days before the passage of ObamaCare, CBS's Nancy Cordes slammed it as **‘a weekend filled with incivility,’** while World News anchor Diane Sawyer painted the Tea Party as a violent gang, with **‘protesters roaming Washington, some of them increasingly emotional, yelling slurs and epithets.’**

“Over the past several days, the liberal demonstrations in Wisconsin ... have included signs just as inflammatory as the ones that bothered the networks during the health care debate, including several showing Governor Scott Walker as Adolph Hitler. Others have likened Walker to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and recently deposed Egyptian autocrat Hosni Mubarak. **Yet none of these signs in the hands of liberal protesters have drawn the slightest complaint from network journalists.**

“MRC analysts examined all 53 ABC, CBS and NBC morning and evening news stories, segments and anchor briefs on the Wisconsin protests from Thursday, February 17 (when they first drew major national coverage) through Monday, February 21. **While eight of the 53 stories (15%) visually displayed one or more of the signs described above, none elicited a single remark from the network correspondents.**”

## **New York Times Shows Labeling Bias**



New York Times reporters have used the term “hard-right” five times in the last two years to describe an American political figure or movement, according to an analysis by TimesWatch.org. The Times' columnists have also used the term several times.

**By contrast, no Times reporter, columnist, or editorial writer has used the term “hard-left” to describe an American political figure or movement a single time in the last two years.**

*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](mailto:dan.rosso@mail.house.gov)*