



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



Media Show Double Standard on Transparency 3/31/09



President Obama took office promising transparency in government, but his recent public meeting at the White House told a different story.

According to *The Washington Post*, the President was guilty of “stocking his town hall ... with supporters” whose questions “provided openings to discuss his preferred message of the day.” The questioners included a member of the Democratic National Committee and a former Democratic candidate.

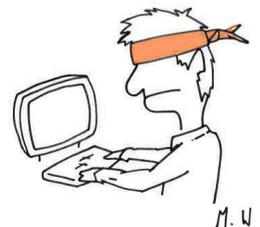
We might recall that many in the media frequently accused former President Bush of inviting his supporters to such events. **In contrast, last week’s story about President Obama appeared only in a Washington Post blog while national media outlets ignored it.**

Not only did the national media not criticize the President, a recent USA Today headline read “Obama Gets Lots of Love at California Town Hall” but failed to mention that tickets were offered to the President’s supporters.

Media Ignore Immigration Poll, Study

A Rasmussen poll found that 67 percent of likely voters support worksite enforcement actions to identify and deport illegal workers. That included a majority of Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

Also, a long-term study released this week by the Center for Immigration Studies found that wages increased for legal workers after a worksite enforcement operation at a large meatpacker.



But you are unlikely to hear about studies and polls like these from the national media because of their left-wing slant on immigration news. **Aside from the Washington Times, not a single major daily newspaper or a single network news program covered either the poll or the study.**

Media Support Secretary Geithner

Despite widespread criticism and calls for his resignation, network news coverage of Commerce Secretary Timothy Geithner has been positive, according to the Business and Media Institute (BMI).

BMI found that the media have “glossed over [Geithner’s] failures and repeated the White House line that it’s a huge undertaking and Geithner is crucial to the process.”

BMI also found that the “media’s treatment of Geithner was very different from the way the mainstream media acted when Bush cabinet members came under fire. In fact, in the case of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld it was the news media lighting the torches and grabbing the pitchforks.”