

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

Liberal Group Plans War Against Fox News

4/13/11



The liberal media watch organization Media Matters is engaged in what its founder, David Brock, described in an interview as an all-out campaign of “guerrilla warfare and sabotage” against at the Fox News Channel, according to a recent Politico report:

“Brock listed the fronts on which Media Matters — which he said is operating on a \$10 million-plus annual budget — is working to chip away at Fox and its parent company, News Corp. They include its bread-and-butter distribution of embarrassing clips and attempts to rebut Fox points, as well as a series of under-the-radar tactics.

“Media Matters, Brock said, is assembling opposition research files not only on Fox’s top executives but on a series of midlevel officials. It has hired an activist who has led a successful campaign to press advertisers to avoid Glenn Beck’s show. The group is assembling a legal team to help people who have clashed with Fox to file lawsuits for defamation, invasion of privacy or other causes. And it has hired two experienced reporters, Joe Strupp and Alexander Zaitchik, to dig into Fox’s operation to help assemble a book on the network, due out in 2012 from Vintage/Anchor.”

Despite Media Matters’ efforts to discredit Fox, the nonpartisan Center for Media and Public Affairs found that Fox News is more balanced than any other network. And polls show the public sees Fox as the fairest news outlet.

The Rest of the Worst in Media Bias

- A report about the federal budget during last Thursday’s *Morning Edition* was heavily slanted toward President Obama and two of his Democratic allies in Congress. NPR’s Ari Shapiro played seven soundbites from the Democrats versus only three from Republican House Speaker John Boehner.
- Over the weekend, the national media largely criticized Republican Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan for not including a big tax hike in his deficit-reduction plan. For example, on *Meet the Press*, NBC’s David Gregory asked Ryan: “Do taxes at some point have to be raised if you’re really going to get into the realm of asking something of the American people, shared sacrifice, not just helping upper earners?” And on *Inside Washington*, Newsweek veteran Evan Thomas claimed: “[Ryan] does nothing on the revenue side ... His goal is to do 18 percent of GDP as revenue. That’s not enough. We’re going to have to raise some taxes ...”
- Over two programs totaling two and half hours of air time, ABC allowed only 65 seconds of coverage for Barack Obama’s decision to break a campaign promise and try 9/11 terror suspects at Guantanamo and not in a civilian court. (Media Research Center)

