



Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



Media Fail to Hold President Accountable

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Last week the Obama Administration increased its budget deficit projection to more than \$1.8 trillion – and then promptly blamed the deficit on former President Bush.

Most of the national media have blindly accepted this false charge, despite facts to the contrary. President Obama didn't inherit the current budget, which spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. But he did vote for last year's budget as Senator. President Obama didn't inherit the \$787 billion so-called stimulus package. He authored it. President Obama didn't inherit out-of-control government spending. He has presided over it.

At some point the national media need to hold the current Administration accountable for its own spending and the ballooning deficit, which will increase inflation and slow economic growth.

Health Care Coverage One-Sided

News reports about President Obama's potential 'reform' of the health care system have omitted critics and free-market solutions, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).



Out of out of 10 stories regarding health care reform on May 11 and 12, only one included a critic. One other segment included brief footage of a commercial opposing government-run health insurance.

Furthermore, all three morning shows interviewed President Obama's Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, to discuss health care reform. **None of the programs interviewed any dissenters.**

Media Downplay Americans' Shift on Abortion

A new Gallup Poll found that a majority of Americans consider themselves pro-life on the issue of abortion. **This is the first time a majority of U.S. adults have identified themselves as pro-life since Gallup began asking this question in 1995.**

The media have downplayed the poll results. For example, an article from *Time* determined that "there are all kinds of ways to misunderstand what [the poll] means." The article concluded that "people always apply the brakes to whichever side has the momentum."

A *Los Angeles Times* article made light of the poll results, claiming "if you are pro-life, [the poll] means the nation has had an unexpected moral reassessment. As if waking from a dream, it gazes down and suddenly sees the blood on its hands, and recoils in moral horror." In contrast, "if you are pro-choice, you might dismiss the polls as meaning nothing, a hard rightward swing among Republicans and nothing more."