

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Networks Downplay Alleged Administration Scandal 6/15/10



Television network news programs have largely ignored the allegations that the Obama Administration offered a job in exchange for dropping out of a political race, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center (MRC):



“On February 18, Rep. Joe Sestak, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, revealed in a Philadelphia TV interview that the Obama White House offered him a job in an effort to talk him out of opposing Sen. Arlen Specter, who’d recently switched parties ... **The network news bosses at ABC, CBS, and NBC kept any mention of this possible quid pro quo off the airwaves of their morning and evening news programs for more than three months.**”

In total, MRC found that “the Sestak job-offer scandal drew only nine stories or mentions on the three networks.”

Media Practice Double Standard in California Gaffes



Last week, California Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown compared his Republican opponent Meg Whitman to a Nazi.

The national media largely ignored Brown’s comments. ABC, CBS, MSNBC and NBC didn’t file one report on this story, and there were no newspaper reports outside the state of California, according to the Media Research Center.

In contrast, when California Republican senatorial candidate Carly Fiorina commented about her opponent’s hair, the media gave the story extensive coverage. **ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times and The Washington Post all covered Fiorina’s comments.**

Americans Oppose Newspaper Bailout

Americans oppose government-driven solutions for the newspaper industry’s problems in large part because of their concern that they threaten the media’s impartiality, according to a new Rasmussen survey.

According to the poll, more than seven out of 10 Americans oppose a government bailout of the newspaper industry like the ones for the financial sector and the automobile industry, up from 65% in March of last year.

By a three-to-one margin, Americans oppose any government involvement in sustaining the newspaper industry. Also, 85% of Americans believe that maintaining freedom of the press is more important than supporting the newspaper industry. And more than two-thirds think it is at least somewhat likely that a newspaper that receives government funding to hire journalists will avoid criticizing government officials and policies.

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
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