

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Where Have All the Investigative Reporters Gone? 6/9/10



In the 1970s, investigative journalists uncovered the political scandal that destroyed President Nixon's career. More recently, investigative journalists pursued alleged scandals involving former House Majority Leader Tom Delay and former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, even though neither was ever convicted of any wrongdoing.

But today, few investigative reporters are focused on what could be a criminal attempt by the Obama Administration to manipulate the Democratic Senate primaries in Pennsylvania and Colorado.

While we don't yet know all the facts about the Administration's actions, we do know the following: It is against the law to offer a government job in exchange for dropping out of a political race. It is against the law for Administration officials to interfere in the nomination process of a Senate election. And it is against the law to obstruct justice.

Rather than a swarm of investigative reporters demanding answers from the Administration, we hear only the sound of crickets chirping on the White House lawn.

Another Journalist Joins Liberal Group

ABC News' Deputy Political Director has taken a job with the liberal Service Employees International Union (SEIU) – a strong supporter of President Obama and his agenda – according to a *Politico* report.

This marks the 15th journalist who has left a national media outlet to join either the Obama Administration or a liberal group, according to a tally by the Media Research Center. Four of these journalists have come from ABC News, four from *The Washington Post*, three from CNN, and one each from *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek* and *Time* magazine.

It's no wonder that, by a margin of 3 to 1, Americans describe the average reporter as more liberal than they are rather than more conservative, according to a recent public opinion poll. The national media are far more liberal than average Americans, and their reporting reflects this bias.

New York Times Spells Scandal without the 'D'

A recent New York Times article about the start of jury selection in the trial of Democrat former governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois failed to mention Blagojevich's party affiliation in nine paragraphs.

The *Times* also omitted the party identification of the scandal-plagued governor in a July 2009 story.

The *Times* often neglects to mention the party affiliation of Democrats embroiled in scandals or ethical controversies, but almost never forgets to mention the party identification of Republican politicians.

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