

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Media Show Double Standard on Gaffes

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At a recent town hall meeting, President Barack Obama accidentally referred to the internet as “internets.” The misstatement came as the President discussed the importance of having internet connections in classrooms.

Former President George W. Bush made the same mistake in 2004 and the national media repeatedly criticized him for it, claiming it showed he was out of touch. In contrast, the national media have largely ignored President Obama’s mistake.

Presidents are bound to misspeak occasionally, but the national media should treat both sides the same, not practice a double standard.

NYT Slants Budget Coverage in Favor of Obama

From the Media Research Center:

“President Obama’s budget blueprint may have been unanimously rejected by Congress in late May, but suddenly the president is the courageous, ambitious one on budget talks after issuing new rhetoric indicating a willingness to make cuts in social programs like Medicare [according to the New York Times].



“In his Sunday front-page story, ‘House Speaker Is Pulling Back On Deficit Deal – \$4 Trillion Plan Stalls Over Tax Increase,’ **congressional reporter Carl Hulse ... continued to shade his own word choices in a pro-Democratic direction ...** The text box also underlined the idea of Obama the risk-taker: ‘An attempt at something big that some Republicans found too big.’”

The New York Times should give Americans the facts on the budget, not tell them what to think.

The Rest of the Worst in Media Bias

“Well, look, **the problem is this issue with the House Republicans.** The leadership on the Senate Republicans and the House Republicans and the White House are pretty close to a deal, but what can they sell to the House Republican caucus, that new conservative, the Tea Party caucus? And, right now, they don’t think they can sell anything that even remotely looks like a tax hike on anybody.”

— NBC White House correspondent Chuck Todd on *Nightly News*, June 29.

“Is the Republican Party willing to risk economic Armageddon in the name of religion, that is the religion of no taxes? **Well, the GOP has become the Wahhabis of American government, willing to risk bringing down the whole country in the service of their anti-tax ideology....The Party’s being driven by fanatics** and they’re determined to bounce America’s savings bonds and have the United States begin to become like Greece.”

— MSNBC’s Chris Matthews on *Hardball*, July 5.

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