

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Networks Ignore Public Opposition to Spending, Debt 7/19/11



From the Media Research Center:

“The 2010 elections, which changed the balance of power in the House, were driven by popular opposition to government spending, debt and the threat of tax increases. Yet even with the federal debt limit already breached and only days left to prevent a national default, the media continue to ignore the public’s wishes.”

“Polls taken by Gallup, CBS and AP have all registered significant worry about federal debt and opposition to an increase in the debt ceiling. But ABC, CBS and NBC coverage of the debt limit battle being waged on Capitol Hill has not reflected that fact.”

“Out of 45 reports on the broadcast network’s evening news programs between June 16 and July 12, only one mentioned a poll that showed public opposition to raising the debt ceiling. That’s a mere 2 percent of reports.”

Media Show Double Standard on Campaign Contributions

From the Media Research Center:

“It’s no secret that most campaigns are heavily funded by big checks from lobbyists, PACs, and rich donors, but President Obama’s campaign team is turning away from that assertion, instead showcasing the claim that it is 98-percent-funded by grassroots support.”

“While 98 percent of the checks may have come from grassroots donors, it doesn’t mean that 98 percent of the money did. **Many media outlets are taking the bait and are ignoring the two percent of donors whose contributions may turn out to be a far greater portion of Obama’s campaign funds than [the Obama campaign] is making them out to be. For comparison, eight years ago when then-President George W. Bush was ramping up for his re-election campaign, the media magnified a small fraction of extremely wealthy donors to be the image of his campaign.**”

The Rest of the Worst in Media Bias

- **Six out of seven reporters who asked President Obama a question during his press conference last Monday framed the question from a liberal perspective or blamed Republicans for blocking a deal on raising the debt limit.**
- **On his syndicated news program, host Chris Matthews asked a panel of four journalists whether they could name a Republican candidate for President who could end up being a great President. Not one of the four journalists -- Gloria Borger of CNN, Kelly O’Donnell of NBC, Joe Klein of Time Magazine, and John Heilemann of New York Magazine -- would identify a single GOP candidate.**

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