

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Networks Push President's Health Care Agenda 7/28/09



Network news programs have boosted the Administration's health care agenda while nearly ignoring the high cost estimates of a government takeover of health care, according to a new study by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).

BMI examined 224 stories about health care on ABC, CBS, and NBC from January 20 (Inauguration Day) to June 24. **BMI found that these stories favored proponents of the Administration's health care proposal over critics of the plan by a margin of more than**

2-to-1 (243 to 104).

Only nine percent of stories accurately referenced the high cost of the Administration's plan. And network mentions of the total number of uninsured people in America were wrong by a margin of 4-to-1.

Networks Spell Scandal Without the 'D' -- Again

Recently, the FBI arrested 44 people in New Jersey on corruption charges. Among those arrested were the mayors of Hoboken, Ridgefield and Secaucus, Jersey City's deputy mayor, and two state assemblymen. All but one of the officeholders are Democrats.

However, all three network evening newscasts failed to mention the party affiliations of the New Jersey office-holders.

Furthermore, CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Deborah Feyerick described it as a bi-partisan scandal. During of The Situation Room, Blitzer announced: "Dozens of public figures, including mayors, are caught in a stunning corruption sweep. **They belong to both major parties**" (even though five of the six are Democrats).

From Newark, Feyerick reported "nearly 30 politicians and public officials, **Democrats and Republicans**, were rounded up in what prosecutors called the largest sweep of its kind."

Washington Post Shows Fairness on Health Care

On Sunday, The Washington Post editorial board accused President Obama of being dishonest about the actual costs of his health care proposal:

"President Obama sometimes presents health-care reform as a pain-free proposition ... But **Mr. Obama's soothing bedside manner masks the reality that getting health costs under control will require making difficult choices about what procedures and medications to cover.** It will require saying no, or having the patient pay more, at times when the extra expense is not justified by the marginal improvement in care."

Regarding the Administration's health care plan, The Post wrote, "... **Mr. Obama does the public a disservice by acting as if it will not require anything from them in return.**"

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