

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Co-Chair

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

Networks Hype Gas Prices 4 Times More for Bush Than Obama

2.28.12

From Newsbusters...

“Rising gas prices used to be big news, but not so these days. Although the national average climbed to \$3.56 on Feb. 20, setting a February record after going up nearly a month straight, there was far less coverage than in 2008. Broadcast networks repeatedly covered the rise under the Bush presidency....**BMI found that in the 2008 period there were more than 4 times as many gas prices stories, news briefs or news headlines on ABC, CBS and NBC as there were in 2012.**

Coverage during the time periods differed not only in quantity, but in tone as well. During Bush’s tenure, gas prices were a huge economic threat and cause of suffering. The networks also used the high gas prices to attack the administration. In 2012, the networks aired mostly matter-of-fact stories on the rising gas prices, and worried primarily that they would hinder the economic recovery, not that they are making people suffer. Dismal broadcast network reports about “skyrocketing” gas prices filled the newscasts in 2008. There were reports about businesses closing, airlines struggling and truckers protesting -- all because of the high prices. One ABC report said families were facing the “tough choice” between food or fuel....But now, in 2012, gas prices stories are very different.”

Record 19 Reporters, Media Execs Join Team Obama

From the Washington Examiner...

“For some Washington reporters and media execs, cheering their team from the sidelines just isn’t good enough.... That’s the case for a whopping 19 journalists and media executives, including five from the Washington Post and three each from ABC and CNN, who’ve gone into the administration or center-left groups supporting the president. Those inside the administration hit 14 this month when the Post’s Stephen Barr joined the Labor Department. That’s a record, say some revolving door watchers, and could even be much higher: **The Post reports that “dozens” of former journalists have joined the administration,** although Washington Secrets couldn’t verify that tally...”

MRC Invades Times Square with ‘Don’t Believe the Liberal Media!’ Billboards

From Media Research Center...

“As part of the ongoing Tell the Truth! 2012 campaign, two massive Media Research Center (MRC) billboards totaling 1,684 square feet were hoisted in one of the world’s busiest pedestrian intersections – New York City’s Times Square. The objective: to hold the liberal media accountable. MRC founder Brent Bozell stated: There is no better location for this billboard than the liberal media’s own backyard. We promised this 2012 campaign would be the most expansive, most exhaustive and consequently the most expensive operation in our 25 years. **We will keep that promise because this is the most important election in our lifetime and the American people are sick and tired of the left-wing media deciding who will govern our country.”**

Left-Wing Foundations Lavish Millions on Media Matters

From The Daily Caller...

“A Daily Caller investigation has revealed the sources of more than \$28.8 million in funding collected by the liberal Media Matters for America since 2003, the year before its formal incorporation. That sum represents 54 percent of every dollar the organization has raised in its history, making Media Matters a principally foundation-driven — not citizen-supported — activist group.

The list of Media Matters’ foundation funders, 120 in all, reads like a Who’s Who of the American progressive movement, including the far-left Tides Foundation (\$4,384,702), **George Soros’ Open Society Institutes** (\$1,075,000), the Sandler Foundation (\$400,000) — endowed by subprime mortgage lenders Herb and Marion Sandler, who once bankrolled the **embattled ACORN organization**.... They also include the anti-George W. Bush organization **MoveOn.org** (\$50,000), the **Barbra Streisand Foundation** (\$85,000), the Lear Family Foundation (\$55,000) — endowed by the TV producer and People for the American Way founder Norman Lear — and the Joyce Foundation (\$400,000), whose board of directors included Barack Obama from 1994 to 2002....

The Daily Caller is publishing spreadsheets describing all the grants to Media Matters it has identified, how much each donor contributed overall, and for what purpose, if any, their donations were earmarked. Most grants were described in foundations’ tax returns as “general support” contributions.”