

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## *A Look at Media Bias*

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

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### ***Politico: What if Bush had done that?***

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From *Politico*...

“President Obama has forged a surprising consensus on opposite ends of the political spectrum: They wonder how on earth he gets away with it. A series of recent moves....would have triggered a massive backlash if Bush had tried them...”

***Here’s a look at four areas in which critics on the left and right say Obama’s gotten a relatively easy ride:***

**Fundraising and swing state travel:** Obama, who came into office bemoaning a broken system, has proved energetic at fundraising from donors and using his office to his political benefit....attended 103 fundraisers — about double the 52 such events Bush had at this point in 2004, according to tallies CBS. He changed course and blessed the efforts of super PACs, allowing top aides and Cabinet members to appear at fundraising events. Obama has made more than 60 trips to swing states since taking office....

**Closed-door CEO courting:** When Cheney met privately with oil executives to talk about energy policy, he was excoriated for being an industry stooge and wound up on the end of lawsuits that went to the Supreme Court. Obama has repeatedly met with CEOs behind closed doors....CEOs of Twitter, NetFlix, Apple, Facebook, Google...American Express, Xerox, Wells Fargo and Johnson & Johnson...JPMorgan Chase CEO....All had the chance to plead their case, and their case, privately.... The private confabs generate less suspicion because the consensus is that Obama and business leaders have a strained relationship.

**A leak crackdown/sending reporters to jail:** Obama has launched an unprecedented drive to put leakers of government secrets behind bars — a campaign that could end up putting reporters in the same place. Since Obama took office, prosecutors have filed 6 criminal, Espionage Act cases — more prosecutions than under all prior presidents combined...

**A golfing habit regularly indulged:** Obama’s golf games have sparked less deprivation... Obama has hit the links more than 90 times since assuming the presidency....Bush’s golfing was a frequent subject of mockery by his critics.”

### **Networks Feature Campaign Propaganda**

From NewsBusters...

“NBC Today correspondent Alexander excitedly promoted an upcoming campaign ad disguised as a documentary: ‘Next week the Obama campaign will release this 17-minute documentary about the President’s first term in office. And Today was given an exclusive first look.’ .... The next clip is of Vice President Biden praising the President’s decision to kill Bin Laden.

“CNN’s Blitzer once again aired campaign propaganda by playing a clip of Clinton praising the President, from an Obama campaign film to be released soon. Blitzer had aired two minutes of footage from the film’s trailer, and he referred back to the film on The Situation Room. Blitzer asked if Clinton stumping for Obama in swing states wouldn’t ‘dramatically’ aid the President. Of course, what also wouldn’t hurt the President is the free advertising he receives by CNN airing his re-election message.”

### **CBS Spins Poll: ‘Little He Can Do’ With Gas Prices**

From NewsBusters...

“Rose and Schieffer were in Obama’s Amen corner on the issue of gas prices on CBS This Morning. Rose shamelessly claimed, ‘The President has a point...There’s little that he can do...in the short term to affect gas prices, and gas prices hurts his political chances.’ Schieffer replied, ‘That’s right on all counts...the problem is...people think there are things he can do about it.’ The morning newscast and CBS Evening News, mentioned how ‘Obama’s approval rating is now at an all-time low,’ and explained, ‘one of the big reasons? Rising gas prices.’ **Both programs omitted mentioning the Democrat’s rejection of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, their slowing of drilling permits, his energy secretary’s endorsement of higher gas prices (which he walked back later), or his party’s backing of cap and trade.**”