

# The Watchdog

THE MRC'S MONTHLY MEMBERS' REPORT



CREATING A MEDIA CULTURE IN AMERICA WHERE TRUTH AND LIBERTY FLOURISH

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## MRC Sounds the Alarm About 'Stealth Fairness Doctrine' to Muzzle Conservative Talk Radio

The ongoing attacks against Rush Limbaugh — from the president of the United States himself and the liberal media — have a purpose: to demonize conservative talk radio and set the stage for regulating it into near-silence.

The new way to muzzle conservative talk radio is with rules mandating "diversity" in media ownership and by broadcasting what is "in the public interest." Diversity and public interest are code for liberalism and liberal views.

Congress, backed by the liberal media, is taking steps to implement these rules and the Media Research Center is doing all it can to sound the alarm and stop this new attempt at government-run censorship. This newsletter will update you on our ongoing efforts, where the problem stands now, and what you can do to help the MRC stop the censors and continue the fight against liberal media bias.

For more than two years now, the MRC has informed you about liberal Democrats in Congress who support a return of the so-called Fairness Doctrine, a federal rule that said broadcast stations had to present alternative political viewpoints on controversial issues and which President Reagan scrapped in 1987.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), and Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.),

among many others, have all said they want that doctrine reinstated.

The MRC took that news and spread it far and wide, warning the public, grassroots activists and lawmakers. The MRC issued press releases, a special report through its Culture and Media Institute, news stories through its CNSNews.com division, a press conference on Capitol Hill, related updates on its NewsBusters blog, and frequent e-

mail alerts through its Free Speech Alliance, a coalition of 59 groups representing millions of Americans.

The MRC also used its new broadcast studio to post video updates on the battle over the Fairness Doctrine.

All that work paid off as the Broadcaster Freedom Amendment — which would prevent the Federal Communications Commission

(FCC) from reinstating the Fairness Doctrine — was attached to a Senate bill by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) in February and passed by a bipartisan vote of 87 to 11.

That was a big victory for free speech and essentially made the Fairness Doctrine a political third rail — politicians dare not touch it for fear of the public backlash. Even liberal Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said two weeks after the vote, "None of us want to go back to the way it was before. ... No one wants to re-establish the Fairness Doctrine —

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MRC in the News



www.MRC.org



New "ownership" and "diversity" rules for broadcast media, introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), could muzzle conservative talk radio.

Conservative talk radio reaches millions of people every day with the truth the liberal media won't report. The MRC is trying to protect their right to speak and your right to listen! Help us by **TAKING ACTION!** Sign the petition: [www.MRCAction.org](http://www.MRCAction.org)



Continued from page 1

Democrats or Republicans.” (By the way, the MRC’s news division, CNSNews.com, was the first media outlet to report Reid’s comments.)

Unfortunately, in that same Senate bill was attached an amendment by Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) that would empower the FCC to take action to “promote diversity” in media ownership and “ensure that broadcast station licenses are used in the public interest.”

The “Durbin Censorship Doctrine,” as the MRC dubbed it, passed on a partisan vote of 57 to 41.

These new rules are nothing more than a backdoor attempt to regulate and control conservative talk radio. It’s not exactly the same as the Fairness Doctrine but, in effect, it would produce much the same result. Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) calls it a “stealth Fairness Doctrine.”

With these rules, the FCC can decide whether there is enough diverse, i.e, liberal, ownership of radio stations. The FCC can also dictate what is “in the public interest,” regardless of whether the public is interested.

Rush Limbaugh’s show is heard by 14 million Americans on more than 600 stations each week. Sean Hannity’s show is heard by 13 million, and Laura Ingraham reaches 5.5 million a week. That clearly reflects what the public is interested in – the public is tuning into them.

Yet under the new rules, the FCC could say that some of the stations that broadcast conservative talk radio are not diverse enough in terms of ownership. The FCC could also say that the conservative talk programming is not “in the public interest” in certain communities and mandate a change.

In other words, mandate that the stations put more liberal voices on the air and more liberals in charge of the radio stations.

Worse, the “Durbin Censorship Doctrine” is broad enough in wording that the FCC could pull some (or many) of the broadcast licenses of radio stations currently airing Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Mark Levin, and so many other fine folks.

On the upside, these new censorship rules are not law – yet. They were attached to a bill that has not been finalized and is now in the House – it is all still in process. Thus, we have a chance to stop them.

To that end, the MRC is informing you, the general public, grassroots activists, and lawmakers to fight back. The MRC has issued press releases calling on President Obama and his nominee for FCC commissioner, Julius Genachowski, to pledge to protect talk radio from all government censorship of political speech – or Genachowski must not be confirmed.

Through our Free Speech Alliance, the MRC is e-mailing millions of Americans about the “Durbin Censorship Doctrine.” Also, the Alliance is gathering petitions to deliver to lawmakers that call for a permanent end to the Fairness Doctrine, the Durbin rules, or any similar legislation that would censor political speech on the radio.

The MRC’s news division, CNSNews.com, is reporting regularly on what Congress is doing with the FCC and talk radio regulations. Our blog, NewsBusters, as well as the Business & Media Institute and the Culture and Media Institute are also covering this issue intensively and informing you and the general public about what the liberals are trying to do.

The stakes in this battle are huge. Conservative talk radio goes directly to the American people – over the heads of liberal politicians and the liberal media. It regularly informs millions of people about conservative ideas. It also puts a stake in the heart of the near-monopoly that the liberal media hold at ABC, CBS, and NBC, at the major newspapers and weeklies, and on CNN and MSNBC.

That’s why the liberals can’t stand conservative talk radio and want to control it and muzzle it. The president himself has criticized Rush Limbaugh.

The MRC, America’s media watchdog, is fighting back. Your support makes this possible, and we are always grateful for it. You can further help us by signing the Free Speech Alliance petition, which is at our Web site, [www.MRC.org](http://www.MRC.org), and by telling your family and friends about our mission. Thank you – **and let’s roll!!!**

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III  
Founder and President



# The Business & Media Institute MRC Research on FoxNews.com Draws More than 200,000 Readers – 6,000 Comments

The Business & Media Institute (BMI), a division of the MRC, has aggressively pushed its research and commentary to FoxNews.com, one of the most popular Web sites on the Internet – and it is paying off. A recent piece by BMI’s Dan Gainor, who is the MRC’s vice president of business and culture, was viewed by more than 200,000 readers and received more than 6,000 comments. Now that’s impact!

The Business & Media Institute started to work more closely with FoxNews.com starting last year. The Web site is one of the best ways to reach new and younger readers.

During the election season, Fox launched a daily live Web TV show called “Strategy Room.” Dan Gainor has appeared weekly on the show since October – working with Fox News hosts Harris Faulkner, Rick Leventhal, Eric Bolling and Heather Nauert.

The show is a lively panel discussion format with hosts, panelists and sometimes surprise guests battling it out on the issues of the day. All the while, the hosts take e-mail right during the show as viewers give their feedback. The interactive nature of the program means that FoxNews is taking Web 2.0 to an exciting new level and BMI gets to be part of it.

Early this year, Gainor became a regular columnist on FoxNews.com’s FoxForum section, which is where BMI’s research is being read – research and analysis of the liberal media’s slanted coverage of business and free enterprise.

Twice this year already, Dan’s column has been the most read item on the FoxNews site for the



4 Until California Gets In Gear on the Road to Recover the U.S. Will Be Stuck in Neutral Obama's Car Cash Plan  
5,946 Responses to "Watch Out, Mr. President, Because We're Mad As Hell!"  
Pages: [60] 59 58 57 56 55 54 53 52 51 50 ... 1 » Show All

week it was posted. One of those columns focused on CNBC’s Rick Santelli who criticized the Obama administration’s so-called economic stimulus plan.

The market was tumbling when Obama signed the \$789-billion measure into law and Santelli was telling it like it is. He sounded like Hoard Beale from the movie “Network.”

Santelli’s modern interpretation of “I’m mad as hell and not going to take it anymore” was a metaphor for the anger many ordinary Americans are feeling about bailout mania. Gainor’s column was viewed nearly 200,000 times on the site and drew 6,000 comments.

Change happens at the speed of light on the Internet, but the Media Research Center continues to show it can keep up the pace.



Get “The Right News. Right Now” at newly redesigned  
[www.CNSNews.com](http://www.CNSNews.com)



# Liberal Media Bias in Overdrive Since Obama Inauguration

## A Selection of Some of the Most Outrageous Liberal Media Quotes So Far in 2009

NBC's Andrea Mitchell spins tax-scofflaw Tom Daschle's Cabinet-nomination downfall: "This does read to the public as though the Republicans went after this man, someone that the president very much wanted, and brought him down."



ABC's Terry Moran reveals his true self: "Why not just nationalize the banks? Why shouldn't you just fire the executives who wrecked these banks in the first place and tanked the world's financial system in the process?"



NBC's Brian Williams hits President Obama with a tough question: "You lost two nominees, two appointments today. Did that make you angry, I imagine?"

NYT Editor Bill Keller explains that reporters aren't biased for Obama, "You know, I think, as a rule, reporters don't fall in love with candidates. They fall in love with stories."

The ever-subtle Jack Cafferty of CNN refers to Rush Limbaugh as "that corpulent Oxycontin aficionado of right-wing talk radio."



Leftist actress Janeane Garofalo tells MSNBC's Keith Olbermann that "the type of female that does like Rush Limbaugh is the same type of woman that falls in love with prisoners," and adds, "Eva Braun, Hitler's girlfriend. That is exactly the type of woman that responds really well to Rush."



CBS's Harry Smith confuses government with God: "One of the sacraments of our national religion is the inauguration. So it was that as many as 2 million pilgrims made their way to Washington and the Mall to witness this most sacred event."



CNN's Carol Costello gets misty over the inauguration, "It was a giant love fest. When Barack Obama started to speak, I was right in the middle of the crowd. People were crying, they were laughing, they were cheering. Suddenly someone would just come up and hug you. It was just amazing."



MSNBC's ever-objective Chris Matthews explains Obama's Feb. 24 speech to the nation: "It was his debut and he wowed us. That's the running headline from last night's presidential address to the Congress."

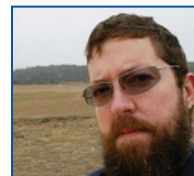


As for the GOP, Matthews wondered, "And finally trolls under the bridge. Is that what Washington Republicans have become? Gremlins hiding along the pathway, nipping at the Democrats."

CNN's David Gergen, drinking from Matthews' glass, gushes: "This was the most ambitious president we've heard in this chamber in decades. The first half of the speech was FDR, fighting for the New Deal. The second half was Lyndon Johnson fighting for the Great Society. I think we're watching one of the greatest political dramas of our time."



AOL News columnist Ken Layne trashes the deceased Paul Harvey: "He had a face for radio and the political compass of the Inquisition. Born to a long line of Baptist preachers, he became the biggest snake oil salesman of them all" and was "known as a full-bore right-wing nut."



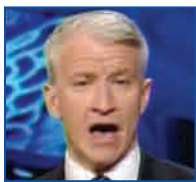
CBS's Maggie Rodriguez pokes Republican leader Eric Cantor, "Can the Republican Party accept that there are situations when large-scale government intervention is necessary? Where's the bipartisanship? Are you afraid of being seen as obstructionist?"



Finally, ABC's Terry Moran says what every liberal believes: "I like to say that, in some ways, Barack Obama is the first president since George Washington to be taking a step down into the Oval Office." Yes, just like George Washington.

MSNBC's Chris Matthews gets that tingle in his leg again watching Obama's Feb. 9 press conference: "The President showed his analytical mind. He was at his best intellectually. I thought it was a great example of how his mind works. What a mind he has, and I love his ability to do it on television. I love to think with him."

NYT's Deborah Solomon quizzes former domestic terrorist Bill Ayers about his "long struggle against racism and social injustice" and wonders, "How do you feel when you wake up?"



Given GOP Sen. Judd Gregg's withdrawal as commerce secretary nominee, CNN's Anderson Cooper sees something sinister: "[Have Republicans], in fact, declared war on President Obama? Do developments today also speak to something deeper, a war, an insurgency by Republicans against the President, against Democrats in the House and against their agenda?"

Ingmar Guandique, the suspect in the Chandra Levy murder case, is an illegal alien but CBS described him as only a "Salvadoran immigrant," CNN called him "a laborer from El Salvador," and *Anderson Cooper 360* labeled him "a U.S. prison inmate from El Salvador."

NBC's Matt Lauer decries the lack of GOP support for the \$789-billion stimulus deal, "If you add up the House and the Senate we have what, 219 Republicans. All but three of them voted against this plan. 216 Republicans seem to have placed a bet on failure. Isn't that safe to say?"



CNN's Jack Cafferty really, really likes First Lady Michelle Obama for she has "blown away the stale air in a White House musty from eight years of the Bushes. It's like the sun came out and a fresh spring breeze began wafting through the open windows."

CBS's Katie Couric tosses another softball to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi about Obama's economic stimulus plan, "Are you surprised how intimately involved he is in the whole process? Can you tell us anything he said to you, like, 'Get cracking?'"



"Flatly, it may be time for Mr. Cheney to leave this country," rails MSNBC's Keith Olbermann, ranting on, "You, Mr. Cheney, you terrified more Americans than did any terrorist in the last seven years, and now it is time for you to desist, or to be made to desist."

CNN's D.L. Hughley riffs, "The tenets of the Republican Party are amazing and they seem warm and welcome. But when I watch it be applied - like you didn't have to go much further than the Republican National Convention. It literally look like Nazi Germany."



## Stay on Top of the Latest Media Outrages

Now you can watch and listen to videos of some of the best *Notable Quotables*. Better yet, you can forward them to your friends, even the liberal ones! Just log on to:

[www.MRC.org](http://www.MRC.org)

L. Brent Bozell III's • March 4, 2009 • Nationally Syndicated Column

## Breathtakingly Bold Barack

As Gov. Bobby Jindal began to offer a Republican response, it became apparent that he would be no match with Barack Obama in the soaring-oratory department. The Republicans really should have tried a gimmick instead. Perhaps Jindal could have simply walked on and said, "Today, the president held what he called a fiscal responsibility summit." He could afford a wide smile at that point, knowing his audience had erupted in laughter.

Honestly, now: Are we quite ready finally to declare the Era of Obama As Fiscally Conservative is over? Last year, Republicans warned that Barack Obama was ultraliberal — a socialist, in fact — but the media handlers typically presented this as a conservative smear. Instead, they painted Obama as an aspiring moderate-Republican deficit reducer.

Take *The New York Times* economics writer David Leonhardt last August: "Obama's aides optimistically insist he will reduce it [the deficit], thanks to his tax increases on the affluent and his plan to wind down the Iraq war. Relative to McCain, whose promised spending cuts are extremely vague, Obama does indeed look like a fiscal conservative."

How ridiculous does that sound now? John McCain probably would have been a moderate Republican president. But the idea that President Obama would turn out to be a stronger fiscal conservative than McCain should inspire a pink-faced laughing fit at the preposterousness of *The New York Times*.

Now that Obama's emphatic ultraliberalism is the elephant in the room, and liberals are cheering the reversal of everything Ronald Reagan tried to accomplish economically, the media still don't want to call it liberal. Instead, it's a pollster's list of positive adjectives: bold, ambitious, audacious, and even breathtaking.

Here's how Charles Babington of the Associated Press began his analysis: "Breathtaking in its scope and ambition, President Barack Obama's agenda for the economy, health care and energy now goes to a Congress unaccustomed to resolving knotty issues and buffeted by powerful interests that oppose parts of his plan."

Obama is the giant with breathtaking ambition, while members of Congress are mere mortals unaccustomed to accomplishment. Obama's agenda is not described as liberal. Instead, it's a plan "to undo major elements of Ronald Reagan's conservative movement."

His AP colleague Liz Sidoti echoed the meaningless chatter: "Barack Obama is embracing the worst economic conditions in a generation as an opportunity to advance an audacious agenda that, if successful, could reshape the country for decades to come."

The wire service Agence France-Presse found the president bristling with action: "Obama also highlighted his audacious 3.55-trillion-dollar budget plan for 2010, which bristles with economic reforms and spending on healthcare, climate change and education in a bid to end America's worst economic crisis since the 1930s."

Then there was *The Washington Post*, the industry leader in budget salesmanship. In a front-page story, editor Karen DeYoung oozed Obama's withdrawal plan from Iraq came "just a day after he transformed the domestic political landscape with a breathtakingly bold budget plan."

Two pages later, reporter Alec MacGillis somehow left out a cheerleader's purse full of exclamation points in a story on Vice President Biden's middle-class task force: "Commentators left and right have reacted with awe to the ambition and transformative potential of President Obama's economic blueprint." Commentators on the right reacted with awe? Only at the shameless boosterism of the leg-tingling Obama press corps.

Later came a front-page *Post* story by Philip Rucker, which began, "President Obama's budget is so ambitious, with vast new spending on health care, energy independence, and services for veterans, that experts say he will need to hire tens of thousands of government workers to realize his goals." The Heritage Foundation suggests it means a quarter of a million new bureaucrats for the federal establishment.

As an adjective, "ambitious" is meant to be a positive word. But George Bush's toppling of Saddam Hussein was "ambitious," and the media didn't applaud its scope. In fact, they paraded the liberals around arguing the Iraq war was unsustainably swelling the deficit. The late Tim Russert pressed Bush in February of 2004: "How, why, as a fiscal conservative as you like to call yourself, would you allow a \$500 billion deficit and this kind of deficit disaster?"

Today, a \$500 billion deficit would sound like progress. Obama's budget aspires to reduce the projected 2009 deficit of \$1.75 trillion by more than two-thirds, to \$533 billion, by the end of his first term — which, if successful, would make it worse than the worst performance by President Bush.

It should be laughable for the White House to promote a "fiscal responsibility summit" days after they shoved through a \$787 billion "stimulus" bill through Congress. But the gooey flood of positive adjectives from the press demonstrates that they are not government watchdogs. They're "breathtakingly bold" Obama enablers. The honesty deficit in our press just grows, and grows.



# MRC in the News

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, in magazines, books and in newspapers, always striving to help restore political balance to the major media. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

## Television

**CBN:** *Newswatch*, Feb. 20  
**CNN:** *The Situation Room*, Feb. 13, 18, 26  
**FBN:** *Cavuto*, Feb. 11  
*Fox Business Live*, Feb. 17  
**FNC:** *Fox & Friends*, Feb. 21  
*Hannity's America*, Feb. 11  
*Special Report w/ Brit Hume*, Feb. 20  
*News Watch*, Feb. 21  
 Fox Dallas TV, Feb. 20  
 Russia TV, Feb. 25

## Radio

Dateline America, Feb. 19  
 Georgia News Network, Feb. 23  
 Point of View, Feb. 23, 27  
 Mark Levin Show, Feb. 19  
 Thom Hartmann Show, Feb. 27  
 Talk Radio News, Feb. 27  
 Talkback with Chuck Wilder, Feb. 24  
 G. Gordon Liddy Show, Feb. 26  
 NRA News, Feb. 27  
 Lars Larson Show, Feb. 11, 18  
 Financial Lifeline Radio, Feb. 17  
 Coral Ridge Ministries, Feb. 13  
 Jody Hice Show, Feb. 12  
 Life Radio, Feb. 18  
 American Family Radio, Feb. 27  
 Clash Radio, Feb. 27  
 Catholic Connection, Feb. 18  
 KKTU, Corpus Christi, TX, Feb. 9, 16, 23, 25  
 KAAY, Little Rock, AR, Feb. 16, 23  
 KFAX, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 17, 24  
 WWTN, Nashville, TN, Feb. 20  
 WTKF, Greenville, NC, Feb. 20  
 WWIB, Chippewa, WI, Feb. 17  
 WEZS, Laconia, NH, Feb. 28  
 WBT, Charlotte, NC, Feb. 22  
 WSAU, Wausau, WI, Feb. 20



An MRC Business & Media Institute update on the Fairness Doctrine is cited on Fox's *Special Report*.



CNSNews.com Editor Terry Jeffrey analyzes the \$1.75 trillion deficit projected for the Obama administration's first year, on CNN's *The Situation Room*.



On Russia TV, MRC Vice President for Business and Culture Dan Gainor discusses President Obama's primetime speech before Congress.



The MRC blog NewsBusters is cited in a story by Sean Hannity on his Fox program, *Hannity's America*.

WOND, Linwood, NJ, Feb. 19  
 KLPW, St. Louis, MO, Feb. 25  
 KSFO, San Francisco, CA, Feb. 20  
 KPDQ, Portland, OR, Feb. 19  
 WSMR, Sarasota, FL, Feb. 20  
 WMKT, Petoskey, MI, Feb. 24  
 WAMT, Orlando, FL, Feb. 13, 26  
 WDUN, Gainesville, GA, Feb. 26  
 KSSZ, Columbia, MO, Feb. 27  
 KBAR, Burley, ID, Feb. 11, 16, Mar. 2  
 KUIK, Hillsboro, OR, Feb. 26  
 WMAL, Washington, DC, Feb. 12  
 KDKA, Pittsburgh, PA, Feb. 11  
 WIBA, Madison, WI, Feb. 11, 16, 25, 27  
 KXYL, Brownwood, TX, Feb. 17  
 KCEO, San Diego, CA, Feb. 12  
 WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Feb. 12  
 KSLR, San Antonio, TX, Feb. 10  
 WLW, Cincinnati, OH, Feb. 16  
 KERN, Bakersfield, CA, Feb. 12  
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## Print

*Washington Times*, Feb. 12, 18, 25, 26  
*Politico*, Feb. 18  
*Human Events*, Feb. 10, 11, 19  
 Associated Press, Feb. 18, 23  
*McClatchy News Service*, Feb. 20  
*Washington Post*, Feb. 16  
*United News & Information*, Feb. 19  
*San Francisco Chronicle*, Feb. 23  
*Canton Repository*, Feb. 23  
*Herald Daily News*, Feb. 23  
*Seattle Times*, Feb. 23  
*Winston-Salem Journal*, Feb. 25  
*Lewiston Morning Tribune*, Feb. 23  
*Jacksonville Daily Progress*, Feb. 11  
 ~ PARTIAL LISTING

## Internet

LifeSiteNews.com, Feb. 13  
 Evening Bulletin, Feb. 17  
 WorldNetDaily, Feb. 6, 10, 11, 13  
 Hotline, Feb. 18  
 FoxNews.com, Feb. 19, 20  
 The Fronrunner, Feb. 19  
 SouthernVoice, Feb. 20  
 The Capital, Feb. 12, 20  
 Boston Phoenix blog, Feb. 16  
 FoxNews.com, Feb. 10, 20  
 CBN.com, Feb. 20  
 OneNewsNow.com, Feb. 17  
 NewsMax.com, Feb. 26  
 CounterPunch, Feb. 27  
 RightSideNews, Feb. 21  
 CBNNews.com, Feb. 22  
 Townhall.com, Feb. 12  
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## POST-TAX ANALYSIS

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## SAMPLE PAYOUT RATES

Age	Rate
60	5.0%
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%
90+	9.5%

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