

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

04.25.2012

Media Ignores the Facts: Women Job Losses Statistic ‘Accurate’

From the *Media Research Center*...

“On Sunday’s *This Week*, George Stephanopoulos stumbled into the truth when he told Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.... **how 92.3 percent of all job losses since President Obama took office have occurred to women, “is accurate.”**

That, however, **contradicted the liberal party line** espoused by ABC reporter David Muir on Wednesday’s *World News* when he stated: ‘The non-partisan group PolitiFact saying that number right there is ‘mostly false,’ arguing the President can’t be held responsible for the job picture the day he took office.’

On Sunday, Geithner called use of the statistic ‘a ridiculous way to look at the problem,’ prompting **Stephanopoulos to press him: ‘But you do concede that the number is correct? It’s technically accurate.’** As opposed to accurate but not technically so? Geithner did not concede the point.

(This is the same accurate statistic which the *Washington Post*’s mis-named “The Fact Checker” assessed as “TRUE BUT FALSE”).

Geithner was also confronted with Romney’s job loss number on *Meet the Press* and *Face the Nation*. NBC’s **David Gregory did not challenge** him when Geithner dismissed it as ‘ridiculous,’ but CBS’s Bob Schieffer did at least follow up: ‘Basically, you’re saying that is right, that most of the jobs that have been lost recently have been lost by women?’”

Biased Cable News Suffers in Friday Night Ratings War

Mediaite is usually good at calling attention to bias in the national media. However, last week it **displayed bias of its own.**

It provided the ratings of all the programs on the four major news stations (Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and HLN). The headline of the article read “Friday Night Ratings: MSNBC Sweeps CNN... Again.” **A more accurate headline would have read “Friday Night Ratings: Fox News Sweeps Both CNN and MSNBC...Again.”**

Fox News once again swept both CNN and MSNBC in the ratings. At many different time slots, the ratings of the Fox News program **more than doubled and sometimes even tripled the ratings of the program on the other stations.**

It is no wonder that likely U.S. voters rated the Fox News Channel as the most trusted TV news source according to a Public Policy Poll conducted in January. The American public will not trust a news channel that provides biased coverage of today’s current events. Americans want and deserve objective coverage of the news.

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
For more information please contact Emily Sanders at 202-225-3926 or Emily.Sanders@mail.house.gov*