

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Media 'Politicize' Colorado Shooting

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From Mediaite...

"Jordan Ghawi, the brother of Jessica Ghawi, one of the victims of the tragic shooting in Colorado, appeared on *MSNBC's The Ed Show* to talk about how he and his family are coping. **Guest host Michael Eric Dyson asked Ghawi if he plans to push for more gun control laws, to which Ghawi said that he has no interest in politicizing the shooting and just wants to focus on 'celebrat[ing] the lives of the victims.'** Dyson asked Ghawi if he feels 'compelled to push for tighter gun laws' given how personally the shooting has affected him. Ghawi admitted he felt uncomfortable with trying to engage in politics after such a tragedy.

"Here's the thing. **We can try to politicize this and make some sort of polarizing debate and make this a tenet of the election. That's not what we're here to do right now. We're here to celebrate the lives of the victims that have been lost.** If somebody wants to do harm to somebody, they're gonna find a way to do it, whether it be with a weapon such as a rifle or whether it be with any sort of means. We should actually start to think about why people are doing this, and the reason people are doing this is they want their names out there."

White House Prohibits Reporters from Tweeting @Biden

From Breitbart...

"On July 24, Vice President Joe Biden took questions from the White House press during a phone conference call, but the **White House told reporters they would not be allowed to use Twitter to live-report the VP's remarks.** *Politico* reported that the Obama administration **banned reporters from Tweeting Biden's comments as he made them, telling them that they'd only be allowed to report on-the-record comments once the call was concluded.**

What was the justification for clamping down on reporter's freedom to Tweet?

From White House deputy press secretary Josh Earnest, via email: 'The embargo will allow journalists to hear the entirety of the Vice President's remarks and get the benefit of having their questions answered -- before trying to condense a 30-minute conference call about a 20-page NEC report into a 140 characters.'

One might suggest that there was another reason for this Twitter ban. Biden is well-known as a gaffe machine and it is likely that the White House wanted time to get ahead of any possible flubs. If reporters were live Tweeting it the White House would have less time to invent the excuses for Biden's bumbles."

Newsweek's Future Looks Bleak

From Accuracy in Media's Don Irvine...

"The grand experiment to save *Newsweek* by combining it with the website *The Daily Beast* may be nearing an end. Reuters reported July 23rd that the family of the late billionaire Sidney Harman was no longer going to invest in the joint venture. That's a smart move on the part of the Harman family to preserve the wealth that Sidney Harman spent a lifetime building, only to endanger it by buying *Newsweek*. *Newsweek* was purchased by Harman in 2010 from the *Washington Post Co.* for \$1, plus the assumption of more than \$50 million in liabilities.

But that was okay with Harman who was more concerned about saving the liberal leaning magazine than worrying about profits. He knew that with his vast wealth he could afford to lose money for a while at least. The results to date have been mixed at best, with *Newsweek's* covers getting plenty of attention, but advertising and circulation down from 2011 levels and the magazine is still losing a lot of money.

As for *The Daily Beast*, it is also losing money—an estimated \$10 million a year. But new owner Diller is a master of leveraging online properties and he will probably find a way to turn the *Beast* around. Unlike Harman, however, he isn't committed to saving *Newsweek* for *Newsweek's* sake.....**Diller would be wise to cut his losses sooner rather than later, and that probably means the end of *Newsweek* as we know it."**