 Liberal Media Coverage of Trump’s First 30 Days
Overwhelmingly Hostile — 88% Negative

It’s no secret that the liberal media are doing everything they can to cripple the Trump presidency and eventually bring it crashing down. By hook or by crook, they want the Trump administration gone. This is why they are on the offensive every single day and why their coverage of the president is overwhelmingly negative.

This is no exaggeration. As a new report by the MRC shows, in the first month of the Trump administration the coverage by ABC, CBS, and NBC was overwhelmingly hostile — 88% negative. (During the presidential campaign the coverage was 91% negative.) It’s unlike anything we’ve seen before.

This number, moreover, does not include the relentless attacks by CNN, MSNBC, NPR, the major newspapers and magazines, Saturday Night Live and Hollywood, as well as Univision and the foreign press.

It’s a tidal wave, a barrage of left-wing assaults. The liberal media truly are the opposition party when it comes to reporting on conservative ideas and on public leaders who, albeit not always purebred Reaganites, are in general pushing a conservative agenda.

Let’s look at some specifics from the MRC report.

TV News vs. President Trump: The First 30 Days, by MRC Research Director Rich Noyes and Research Analyst Mike Ciandella, analyzed the Big Three evening newscasts from January 20 to February 18. It found that more than half (54%) of the networks’ coverage — 16 hours! — targeted President Trump and his team.

Among the tactics used, the networks crowded their stories with quotes from citizens angry about many of Trump’s policies while providing relatively little airtime to Trump supporters.

Further, the networks’ anchors and reporters injected their own anti-Trump tone into the coverage. Typical was CBS Evening News’ Scott Pelley who snarked in early February, “It has been a busy day for presidential statements divorced from reality.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson scolded, “Instead of working to clarify or backtrack on President Trump’s false claims, today his press secretary tried to cement them.”

In their brutally hostile coverage, ABC, CBS, and NBC focused largely on five topics: Trump’s immigration pause from terrorist-infested countries; the border wall and deportations; the
resignation of National Security Adviser Michael Flynn; Russia; and the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

The networks spent more than 3 hours on stories about the immigration pause, nearly 1/5th of their entire Trump administration coverage. As a megaphone for the left, NBC’s Lester Holt led his broadcast on Jan. 30 from the Statue of Liberty, “which for nearly 130 years,” he said, “has symbolized the welcome arms of a country of immigrants.” He then quoted unnamed “critics” who called the immigration pause “a solution in search of a problem, and an unconstitutional and thinly disguised ban on Muslims.”

CBS’s Pelley bemoaned, “Citing the terrorist attacks on 9/11, including the attack on the World Trade Center, President Trump drew an X today through the welcoming words of the nearby Statue of Liberty. He signed an executive order he says will keep out Islamic terrorists.”

Beyond the networks, CNN’s in-house radical Fareed Zakaria riffed, “These people [immigrants] are the road kill of Trump’s posturing…. Donald Trump seems to want to turn off that lamp on the Statue of Liberty.”

As for the border wall Trump wants to build and the issue of deportations, the networks ran more than an hour’s worth of stories, all of them sympathetic to illegal aliens. Trump’s policy according to ABC’s Jim Avila is a “stern warning to all 11 million undocumented living in the United States, most of them law-abiding and paying taxes and working, that they are no longer safe to stay here.”

NBC’s Lester Holt cheered, “Here in New York, a massive protest has erupted against his wall plans and policy makeovers.” NBC’s Gadi Schwartz reported from the border, “today on the U.S. side, families coming to speak to those they wish they could hug without metal bars. Many asking why Mexicans should have to pay for a wall they don’t want.”

On Gen. Michael T. Flynn’s resignation the networks devoted nearly an hour’s worth of combined coverage, and for the administration’s relations with Russia, 45 minutes. The liberal media were apoplectic over Flynn.

On Feb. 15, two days after Flynn resigned, Trump held a joint press conference with Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu. Trump didn’t call on the network reporters but chose other journalists. On cue, ABC’s Matt Dowd whined, “This is two democracies, two important democracies in the world and basically the President of the United States is shutting down part of the First Amendment by not taking certain questions that are going to be any way antagonistic.”

NBC’s Chuck Todd huffed that the Flynn matter was “the biggest presidential scandal involving a foreign government since Iran-Contra…. [T]his is a Class 5 political hurricane that’s hitting Washington.”

The networks ran more than 30 minutes of reports on SCOTUS nominee Neil Gorsuch. ABC, CBS, and NBC relentlessly harped that Gorsuch is “conservative,” “very conservative,” “a solid, predictable conservative,” a labeling tactic they avoided with President Obama’s left-wing nominee Merrick Garland, who they tagged, a few times, as “moderate.”

The MRC report also documents the networks’ sympathetic coverage of anti-Trump protests and the nets’ vicious smears of Cabinet appointees, such as Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The study was cited by numerous new media, delivering the MRC message to millions of Americans. It was cited by the Drudge Report, for instance, which reaches 14 million people a day, and by outlets such as The O’Reilly Factor, Fox & Friends, The Daily Mail, Breitbart News, The Daily Caller, and Politico.

Every day, the MRC, America’s media watchdog, is battling the liberal press. No conservative organization does what we do, but countless conservative groups rely on our work to accomplish their mission. You can support us in this good fight by making a donation to the MRC today. Give us a call (571-267-3500). We look forward to speaking with you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
The left-wing media are trying to destroy President Donald Trump and the solidly conservative leaders in his administration. One of their latest targets is Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the former senator of Alabama, and a truly good man.

In 2016, it was part of Senator Sessions’ job in his capacity as a U.S. senator to meet with foreign diplomats, including the Russian ambassador. It was routine, and numerous other Republicans and Democrats also met with the Russian ambassador, as well as with officials from other countries.

Nonetheless, the liberal media and their allies in Congress drew their knives in March when The Washington Post reported that Sessions had met with the ambassador twice last year and, during his January confirmation hearing, had denied that he met with him as part of the Trump campaign — an accurate statement. Horrors! Sessions had met the ambassador — they shook hands — at a public event arranged by the Obama State Department in July, and he also met with him in September in his office to discuss Ukraine. As Sessions testified, he did not meet with any Russian officials to discuss the Trump campaign.

Still, the leftist media went ballistic. They claimed that Sessions had lied under oath. It was a political hit job. As the MRC documented, ABC, CBS, and NBC devoted more than one hour in total coverage to attacking Sessions. (When Obama AG Eric Holder was held in contempt of Congress in 2012 the networks gave it 10 minutes.)

CNN was gleeful. On March 2, Wolf Blitzer led a panel, asking, “Did President Trump’s attorney general mislead the United States Congress about talks with the Russians during the presidential campaign? Did he commit perjury when he wasn’t forthcoming in response to questions during his Senate confirmation hearing.”

Harking back to Watergate, CNN’s Gloria Borger chirped, “it’s the cover-up, not the crime.” CNN legal analyst Laura Coates declared, “it walks and smells like perjury at this point.” For Sessions to stay on as AG, she harped, is like “the fox guarding the hen house.”

ABC and NBC gushed about the “bombshell revelations” and quoted Democrats calling on Sessions, who was “under fire,” to resign. ABC’s Mary Bruce read a tweet from a George W. Bush lawyer that “misleading the Senate” about “contacts with the Russians is a good way to go to jail.”

Remember, this was all in one day, March 2, and Sessions, as facts would prove, did nothing illegal. The liberal media were hysterical, vengeful, and piling on.

CNN contributor Carl Bernstein claimed, “We have got a situation that calls for a special prosecutor.... It is very clear that Sessions has lied.”

CNN’s Mary Cardona lectured, “this man lied under oath to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the American people.” She predictably added that the Trump campaign “perhaps” engaged in “treasonous activities.”

Later in the day, Sessions held a press conference and announced that having met with ethics advisers he was recusing himself from any DOJ investigations of Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign.

Obama’s National Intelligence director, James Clapper, has said there is no evidence of collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign, a point the leftist media don’t want to accept.

The vicious and swift attacks on Sessions by leftists in Congress and their comrades in the media reek of coordination. They tried to take him out in one day. That hit job is the real scandal and it deserves investigation.

ABC, CBS, NBC: 72 minutes for Sessions Debacle, Only 11 for Holder Contempt

- Sessions Meeting With Russian Ambassador
- Holder Being Held in Contempt of Congress

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Budget Apocalypse

The network news outlets wept and moaned over President Trump’s proposed budget, predictably harping about how it would hurt women, children, and the poor. NBC’s Peter Alexander whined about the “deep and in some cases unprecedented cuts.” The State Department slashed by 29% targeting foreign aid. The Environmental Protection Agency sliced by 31%, including programs to combat climate change. And the National Institutes of Health budget trimmed by nearly $6 billion. Dr. Robert Clark said that would devastate his breast cancer research.

ABC’s Mary Bruce complained that the cuts “scramble the nation’s spending priorities,” hurting the EPA and education. She then lamented Americans would see less of Big Bird and the Muppets. NBC’s Alexander further fretted that Trump’s proposal doesn’t “balance the budget.” Suddenly, the liberal media are concerned about spending when they looked away for eight years as President Obama jacked up the national debt to $20 trillion.

American Gulag

In March, MSNBC’s nobody Chris Hayes released his book, A Colony in a Nation, which argues that, for blacks, America is like a Soviet gulag and Black Lives Matter (BLM) is like the Founding Fathers. The book contends that America persecutes blacks through unjust laws and an anti-black criminal justice system.

As The Week review of Hayes’s book declared, the rights of blacks “are not respected, they have little or no access to due process,” they suffer before “predatory business” and are “brutally repressed and mined for profit.”

Hayes claims that the riots in Ferguson were like the Boston Tea Party — blacks rising up against “coercive extraction of taxes and fees.” Then, these fighters faced a legal system that “likely rivals the Soviet gulags.” The book “serves as a window into what’s coming for everyone,” according to The Week.

Only an MSNBC “journalist” could compare the U.S. criminal justice system with the gulag archipelago.
It's no surprise CNN hired the daughter of President Obama’s top adviser, Valerie Jarrett, to cover the Justice Department. Laura Jarrett is a Harvard-educated lawyer but has zero experience in journalism.

**ESPN’s Jarrett**

Given CNN’s relentless attacks on President Donald Trump and his cabinet, it is no surprise to learn that the cable network has hired the daughter of President Obama’s top adviser, Valerie Jarrett, to cover the Justice Department. Laura Jarrett is a Harvard-educated lawyer but has zero experience in journalism. She also has made campaign donations to Obama, twice. So she is clearly qualified to be a CNN reporter.

Liberal Democrats who go to work for the liberal media is nothing new. Ben Rhodes, the National Security Advisor to President Obama who actively lied to the media about the Iran deal, is brother to David Rhodes, president of CBS. ABC’s Claire Shipman is the wife of Jay Carney, former Obama spokesman. ABC’s George Stephanopoulos is a former Clinton staffer. Ben Sherwood, president of Disney-ABC television, is the brother to former Obama aide Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall — all vultures of a feather.
Every time you hear the network anchors and reporters act outraged that President Trump is calling on “friendly” reporters, and that there’s something desperately wrong in trying to avoid negative publicity and hostile questions, think of Planned Parenthood.

As with virtually anyone on the Left, journalists treat Planned Parenthood as the most sacred of cows. In the last few weeks, from the “Women’s March” through the March for Life and other protests of Planned Parenthood, none of the networks will investigate or even cover the activities of these merchants of death.

They will say that pro-lifers — “anti-abortion rights advocates,” or “anti-choice protesters” — want to defund Planned Parenthood. But they routinely repeat the liberal argument that federal funds don’t pay for abortions (never mind the taxpayer-funded abortions under Obamacare). They don’t point out the fact that Planned Parenthood is hard-wired into the Democratic Party coalition and spent about $14 million in PAC money for Democrats in the last cycle.

A recent Quinnipiac poll asked plainly if people supported defunding Planned Parenthood: only 31 percent said yes, and 62 percent said no. Another recent Quinnipiac poll asked about banning abortion at 20 weeks: 46 percent said yes, and 46 percent said no.

Planned Parenthood has performed tens of thousands of abortions after 20 weeks. Their own Alan Guttmacher Institute reports there are about 18,000 third-trimester abortions ever year. According to this survey, roughly a third of those who believe this ghastly practice should be banned also believe Planned Parenthood should be funded so as they can commit these atrocities.

That gap illustrates that Planned Parenthood (through a very cooperative media) effectively brands itself as a generic women’s-health-care provider, and not as the McDonald’s of abortion. Even liberal fact checkers like Glenn Kessler of The Washington Post slammed that as misleading: “there are obvious differences between a surgical (or even medical) abortion, and offering a urine (or even blood) pregnancy test. These services are not all comparable in how much they cost or how extensive the service or procedure is.”

But watch or hear the networks, and they just parrot the propaganda line. Take NPR anchor Ari Shapiro: “Nationally, Planned Parenthood says it treats 2 and a half million patients a year, and abortions make up 3 percent of the services.” ABC’s Good Morning America let a spokeswoman claim “97 percent of the services that Planned Parenthood provides are preventive health services.”

The networks also give us celebrities reading the sales pamphlet. Actress Scarlett Johansson was quoted by CBS: “For millions of Americans, Planned Parenthood is often the only trustworthy and affordable clinic.” Baloney. She might be excused as a fool, but CBS knows better.

These networks are deliberately ignoring what the pro-life group Live Action keeps proving: Planned Parenthood is not a hospital. Most of their centers don’t offer prenatal care. You don’t go there for a mammogram. They are a “sexual health” clinic. Women go there for contraceptives, pregnancy and STD tests, and to kill their babies.

On January 24, Live Action posted a video documenting how they contacted 97 Planned Parenthood clinics across the organization’s 41 affiliates where undercover recording is legally allowed, and only five said they offered any form of prenatal care. They don’t insure a healthy pregnancy. They terminate pregnancies. Network coverage? Zero.

In another video issued on February 7, Sue Thayer, a former manager of a Planned Parenthood center in Iowa, said she encouraged an abortion quota that, if met, would result in staff pizza parties. Network coverage? Zero.

These are only two of six videos that Live Action has posted in the last couple of weeks, and they’ve drawn more than 33 million views on the Internet. The networks simply won’t touch them. They are rigidly doctrinaire in maintaining their Happy News narrative. Nothing that pro-lifers produce, no matter how solid the reporting, can break through. It’s all somehow “alternate facts” and “fake news.” And they wonder why the public doesn’t trust them.
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, social media, 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**

CNN:
- New Day, Mar. 19
- Newsroom, Feb. 16

C-SPAN:
- Washington Week, Mar. 4

FBN:
- After the Bell, Feb. 27
- Cavuto Coast to Coast, Feb. 20, Mar. 3, 23
- Intelligence Report, Feb. 17, 20, 27,
  Mar. 1, 10, 13
- Lou Dobbs Tonight, Mar. 3
- Risk & Reward, Feb. 21, 27, Mar. 7, 16
- Varney & Co., Feb. 13, Mar. 3, 9

FNC:
- America’s Newsroom, Mar. 9
- Fox & Friends, Mar. 3, 4
- Hannity, Mar. 9
- Making Money, Mar. 7
- O’Reilly Factor, Mar. 3, 9
- Special Report, Mar. 7
- Your World, Feb. 24

NEWSMAX TV:
- Talks Live, Mar. 2, 16

OANN
- Daily Ledger, Feb. 16, 24, Mar. 2, 9, 14, 15, 16
- PARTIAL LISTING

**Radio**

AFAR, Focal Point, Feb. 13, 27, Mar. 6, 13
- Alan Nathan Show, Feb. 13, 16, 17, 23, Mar. 2, 10, 15, 16
- American Family Radio, Feb. 14, Mar. 2, 6, 14, 16, 17
- Blaze Radio, Feb. 27, Mar. 7
- Breitbart News Daily, SiriusXM, Feb. 13, 20, 27
- Drew Mariani Show, Feb. 13
- Fox Nation, Feb. 18, 21, Mar. 7, 13
- Herman Cain Show, Mar. 3
- Lars Larson, Feb. 27, Mar. 17
- Mark Levin Show, Feb. 28, Mar. 6
- Phil Valentine Show, Feb. 27, 28
- Rusty Humphries Show, Feb. 14, 22, Mar. 3, 6, 10
- Sean Hannity Show, Feb. 14, 21, Mar. 6, 13
- Tim Constantine’s Capitol Hill Show, Mar. 9, 15
- KFAB, Omaha, NE, Mar. 10, 15
- KIDO, Boise, ID, Feb. 15, 21, 28, Mar. 2, 9, 13, 16
- KNTH, Houston, TX, Feb. 23, 27, Mar. 2, 6, 9, 13
- KPRZ, New Orleans, LA, Mar. 1, 8, 15
- KVOR, Colorado Springs, CO, Mar. 3, 6, 9, 13, 14, 17
- KWEL, Midland, TX, Feb. 14, 28, Mar. 7, 14
- WCCO, Chicago, IL, Mar. 8, 10, 14
- WEHH, Almira, NY, Feb. 13, 24, 27, Mar. 6, 13
- WGMZ, Lewes, DE, Feb. 13, 27, 6, 13
- WIBA, Madison, WI, Feb. 14, Mar. 14
- WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13
- WINA, Charlotteville, VA, Mar. 8, 20
- WTKF, Morehead City, NC, Feb. 17, Mar. 3, 6, 10, 17
- WXGM, Madison, WI, Feb. 16, 22, 28, Mar. 2, 9, 14, 16
- PARTIAL LISTING

**Print**

Investor’s Business Daily, Feb. 15, 17, 23, 28
- Mar. 2, 7, 14, 16
- The Boston Globe, Mar. 7
- The Chicago Tribune, Mar. 18
- The Washington Times, Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 7, 8, 15, 20
- PARTIAL LISTING

**Internet & Twitter**

Associated Press, Mar. 6, 7
- BizPac Review, Mar. 9, 10
- Breitbart News, Feb. 12, 13, 20, 26, 27, 28, Mar. 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13
- CBN News, Feb. 28, Mar. 9, 14
- Christian Institute, Mar. 9
- Christian Post, Mar. 6, 8
- CNN Money, Mar. 1, 16
- Conservative Commentaries, Mar. 2, 8, 17
- Daily Caller, Mar. 1, 2, 6, 15, 20
- Daily Mail, Mar. 2
- Daily Signal, Feb. 16
- Daily Wire, Mar. 2
- Drudge Report, Feb. 1, 13, 14, 15, 28, Mar. 2, 3, 9, 10, 14, 15, 23
- Florida Times-Union, Mar. 9
- Fortune, Mar. 16
- Fox News, Feb. 16, Mar. 1, 6, 8, 13, 14, 17
- GOPUSA, Feb. 16
- HotAir, Feb. 16, Mar. 1
- IJReview, Mar. 9
- Inquisitr, Feb. 16, Mar. 5, 7, 15
- Legal Insurrection, Feb. 19, Mar. 4
- Life Site News, Feb. 28, Mar. 1, 7, 15
- LifeNews, Feb. 15, 22, 24, 28, Mar. 6, 7, 16
- LifeZette, Feb. 16, Mar. 2, 6, 17
- Live Action News, Mar. 9
- Medialite, Feb. 27, Mar. 7, 8, 9, 13
- National Right to Life News, Mar. 2, 8
- Newsmax, Mar. 2, 16
- One News Now, Feb. 16, 28, Mar. 8
- Powerline, Mar. 3
- RedState, Feb. 16
- Slate, Mar. 1
- The Atlantic, Mar. 14
- The Blaze, Feb. 16, 28, Mar. 2, 9
- The Federalist, Feb. 28, Mar. 3
- The Right Scoop, Mar. 8
- Townhall, Feb. 15, 21, 23, Mar. 1, 9
- Washington Examiner, Feb. 13, 24, 27, Mar. 2, 6, 13
- Washington Free Beacon, Mar. 7, 9, 13
- Washington Watch, Mar. 3
- Western Journalism, Feb. 20, Mar. 10
- World Net Daily, Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 6, 9, 13
- World Tribune, Mar. 9
- Yahoo News, Feb. 15, Mar. 13
- PARTIAL LISTING
n Fox's flamboyant Shep Smith tees off, again, on President Trump: “It’s crazy what we’re watching every day. It’s absolutely crazy. He keeps repeating ridiculous throw away lines that are not true at all.”

n ABC's Joy Behar asks Dr. Phil, “A lot of respected psychologists out there, really big time, really big names, are saying that Donald Trump is showing signs of narcissism. Number one, do you think that’s a mental illness, narcissism, and if so is he [Donald Trump] fit to be president?” 

n MSNBC’s Christopher Dickey, apparently sober, declares, “People in European governments think that Trump has lost his mind, and that the United States government is rapidly moving out of any kind of control, any kind of stability that’s been known in the past…. In Europe, they have historical memories. They remember what fascism was like. In the United States, we’ve been spared that, at least up until now.”

n CNN’s Fareed Zakaria, self-confessed plagiarist, lectures that “Trump has always trafficked in fear-mongering,” and “as someone noted over the past few days, Donald Trump seems to want to turn off that lamp on the Statue of Liberty.”

n Former White House correspondent Roger Simon writes about Trump in Politico, “We can imagine a future of jackboots crashing through our doors at 2 a.m., trucks in the streets to take people to the internment camps, bright lights and barking dogs — and worse…. Our long national nightmare may have just begun.”

n Historian Richard Evans seriously tells Slate.com, “Hitler and the Nazis regarded the Jews as an existential threat to Germany. They used hyperbolic and exaggerated language about Jews…. If you look at the language the Trump team has been using about Islamic extremist jihadists, it is exactly the same: They are an existential threat to America.”