

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Media Hype Gas Prices to Fuel Liberal Agenda

Dear Friend,

We're all paying more for a gallon of gasoline now, and it's not fun. No one likes to pay more for anything — not for a gallon of milk or for a loaf of bread. The price of gas, like nearly everything else, is set by supply and demand (and by taxes and regulations). For its part, "Big Oil" is indeed big, multinational, with rigs, ports, tankers, and offices around the world. And because it's big, it makes huge profits, just like other companies, such as Microsoft, IBM, Wal-Mart and GE.

And the liberal media think that's evil. They're playing the gas prices issue as if it were unique, mysterious, outside the laws of supply and demand and Middle East turmoil. CBS, NBC, ABC, and CNN have even run reports suggesting that higher gas prices are the result of a conspiracy by oil executives to gouge consumers. The media have no evidence of that, they just "suggest" it in their broadcasts.

The liberal media are hyping gas prices to push a liberal agenda. It is an agenda to slam oil companies as greedy, to raise taxes on gasoline, to mandate more environmental regulations, to criticize the war in Iraq, to blame the Administration, and, in sum, to give the government more control over the oil industry.

Here at the MRC, our news analysts have proven this leftist media agenda. Our *CyberAlerts*, *Media Reality Checks*, and appearances on TV, radio, and in print have worked to document, expose, and neutralize that bias. More can be done, always more, dependent upon our resources and your support. Let's look at part of the liberal game plan and how the MRC has fought back.

When gas prices rose in late April/early May, the networks, cable news, and countless editorials raged about "record high" prices or "soaring" prices or "pain at the pump." The price of a gallon of gas was indeed going up ... but it was not at a "record high." The liberal media did not tell Americans that,

when adjusted for inflation, the average price of a gallon of gas (now around \$3.00) would have to be about 50 cents higher than today's price to be a "record high." Factor inflation in, and gasoline was more expensive in the early 1980s than it is now.

The liberal media were mum but the MRC addressed this fact, and related issues, in nine *CyberAlerts* from April and May, a *Media Reality Check*, on radio, and in an op-ed and newsletter report from the MRC's

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ABC's World News Tonight anchor Elizabeth Vargas used the "corporate greed" angle in reporting on oil company profits and suggested that a "windfall profits tax" on oil companies was perhaps a good idea.

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MRC In The News



America's Media Watchdog

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Business & Media Institute. These materials gained a lot of play on talk radio, on Internet blogs, in the *Washington Times* and *Human Events*, and even through a lengthy citation by Paul Harvey, whose commentary is carried by 1,200 radio stations nationwide and 400 Armed Forces Network stations.

Those MRC reports also addressed the “corporate greed” angle that the liberal media were spinning. Following the news that ExxonMobil made \$8.4 billion in profit in the First Quarter of 2006, CBS’s Renee Syler wondered, “Is this a case of corporate greed out of control?” Another reporter, Bianca Solorzano, told CBS’s *The Early Show*, “These increasing profits are raising questions of corporate greed.” Geraldo Rivera called the oil company CEOs “pirates.”

Yet again, MRC *CyberAlerts* pointed out that during that same First Quarter, ExxonMobil paid \$25 billion – four times as much — in taxes. As for 2005, the liberal media were outraged that ExxonMobil earned \$36 billion in profit in 2005. But they didn’t tell Americans that ExxonMobil also paid \$99 billion in taxes last year.

Further, as the MRC has documented, ExxonMobil’s profit margin in 2005 was 10.6 percent, making it No. 116 out of 500 top companies. Companies that earned much higher profit margins in 2005, but for which the liberal media didn’t say much, included Microsoft (30.8 percent) and Yahoo! (36.1 percent).

Pushing their liberal agenda further, the elite media advocated a “windfall tax” on oil company profits. This was proposed by

This Week’s George Stephanopoulos, Elizabeth Vargas of *World News Tonight*, Charlie Gibson of *Good Morning America*, and countless other liberal media. Follow the liberal logic: Consumers

are paying too much. Gas prices are already high in large part because of taxes, which take an average 46 cents per gallon (60 cents in New York City). So, let’s tax the oil companies even more, which will drive up prices more and give more money to Uncle Sam, not the consumer.

It’s insane. It’s also absurd to see how far the liberal media will go. For instance, the *CBS Evening News* reported that the elderly were skipping meals and medicine to help pay for gasoline. Over at ABC, *World News Tonight* showcased a woman who claimed she pawned her wedding gifts for gas money.

Skipping medicine? Pawning wedding gifts?

The liberal media will stop at nothing to advance their cradle-to-grave welfare state agenda. Their distortions are effective, unfortunately, as the hype over gas prices proves. The MRC is fighting back against that hype, against that liberal agenda. It’s a constant struggle against, ironically, multi-billion dollar elite media monsters that complain about multi-billion dollar oil firms. But we relish the fight and we thank you for your support.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

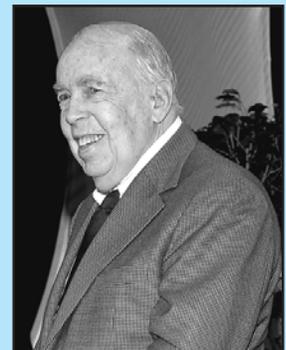


Sharyn Alfonsi, with the *CBS Evening News*, reported that the elderly were skipping meals and medicine in order to pay for gasoline.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

Watch key moments of the MRC Gala & DisHonors Awards online at

www.MRC.org



Save the date: March 29, 2007 • The MRC’s 20th Anniversary Gala • Washington, D.C.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



Free Market Project Gets a New Name: Business & Media Institute

BY DAN GAINOR • THE BOONE PICKENS FREE MARKET FELLOW

In early May, the MRC's Free Market Project, for which I serve as director, changed its name to the Business & Media Institute (BMI).

A change was needed because (1) the Free Market Project, or FMP, moniker did not convey its link to the media or to media coverage of business and markets; and (2) research showed that, outside of economic and academic circles, many people do not know what "free market" means. It is, simply, abstract, and one needs to be precise and lucid in today's information-dominant world.

The new name, Business & Media Institute (www.businessandmedia.org), provides clarity to outsiders unfamiliar with our long history of documenting, exposing and correcting media bias against the culture of free enterprise. Talk radio hosts and experts in Washington's think tank community agree that the new name simplifies the question about what types of topics we handle. It is our goal to be on the front lines of all business and media issues. The new name will make that easier.

The BMI's mission statement, "Advancing the culture of free enterprise in America," explains what the Business & Media Institute is about and why it exists. The liberal

media, by and large, do not understand basic economics, they do not understand prices, they don't understand or appreciate entrepreneurs, they criticize successful big businesses, and they have an irrational (and hypocritical) hostility toward capitalism and private property. In short, they don't understand the economic roots of America's business success – free enterprise – and they thus mis-report or willfully deceive Americans through their inadequate and biased coverage. The liberal media have turned business into a caricature and ignored the fact that free enterprise is the backbone of American success.

The Business & Media Institute is going to change that. In fact, we already have to a degree, with more than 160 radio interviews so far in 2006 reaching several million Americans, a weekly newsletter, and op-eds published in *The Washington Times*, *Human Events* and *Investor's Business Daily*. We are moving forward, and we thank you, MRC supporters, for providing the means for the BMI to advance the culture of free enterprise in America.

Dan Gainor is the Boone Pickens Free Market Fellow and director of the Media Research Center's Business & Media Institute, www.businessandmedia.org.

Media Spin on Oil Gives Energy to BMI

The major spike in oil and gasoline prices brought one benefit to the MRC's Business & Media Institute (formerly Free Market Project.) BMI's ongoing analysis of coverage of energy and the media's consistent assault on corporate America resulted in roughly 90 interviews on the topic.

Dan Gainor, The Boone Pickens Free Market Fellow and BMI Director, logged about 80 interviews to tell the story the media weren't reporting: oil companies are not to blame for the hikes. Those appearances included some notable conservative talk show hosts such as Lars Larson, Fred Honsberger and Martha Zoller. Veteran talk show host G. Gordon Liddy read aloud an entire Gainor op-ed about gas prices from the *Washington Times*. Notable conservative Mark Levin also quoted from the op-ed. Talk show host extraordinaire Sean Hannity used most of the points as well.

In addition, Mr. Gainor appeared on-air in major market cities from Florida to California and most states in between – D.C., Los Angeles, Atlanta and San Francisco, to name just a few. Deputy Editor Amy Menefee also began to stretch her radio wings – speaking on five shows herself in the one-month period.

The Business & Media Institute, is plowing inroads in the media nationwide and furthering its mission to advance a culture of free enterprise in America.



BMI Director Dan Gainor debunked liberal myths about high gas prices on *Goss' Garage*, ABC News Channel 8, in Washington D.C.



NBC's Tim Vincent – displaying his and NBC's left-wing bias – reported from New York wearing a shirt sporting the hammer and sickle of the totalitarian Soviet Union.

Reporter Sports Soviet Garb

The liberal media went ballistic when Britain's Prince Harry attended a party dressed as a Nazi, and the liberal media have dressed-down others for sporting fascist, racist, and even Confederate regalia. Yet when it comes to totalitarian communism and one of their own, the liberal media shrug and say... nothing. NBC's Tim Vincent, a correspondent for *Access Hollywood* and a contributor to *Today*, reported from Rockefeller Plaza on April 14 wearing a red and gold t-shirt with the hammer and

sickle emblem of the Soviet Red Army. Vincent gave another report, aired on April 17, wearing the same shirt. The liberal media said nothing.

Marxist policies in the USSR killed 40 million people. Along with China, Vietnam, North Korea, Cuba, and Cambodia, communism killed more than 100 million people in the 20th century. NBC clearly has no sense of history and no sense of decency.

Give Us Clinton!

If Bill Clinton could run for President again he would win and it would be “the answer to a prayer,” predicted left-wing commentator Jack Cafferty on the April 11 edition of CNN's *The Situation Room*. Although Clinton never attained 50 percent of the vote –



CNN's Jack Cafferty seriously contended that Bill Clinton would win the presidential election today “in a heartbeat.” He “would be the answer to a prayer.”

43 percent in 1992, 46 percent in 1996 – Cafferty said Clinton would win “in a heartbeat.”

“The Democrats have no one,” said Cafferty. “They have a couple of potential candidates which they seem intent on keeping out of the public spotlight. I mean, I think the Governor down in Virginia might be a good guy. They got Barack Obama in Illinois. But instead, who do you see on TV? You see Hillary and Chuck Schumer and Ted Kennedy. I, you know, Clinton would be the answer to a prayer. Not Hillary, her husband.”



John “Very Bitter” Mashek

John Mashek, a veteran journalist who posed questions at three presidential debates during his career, has used his blog on the *U.S. News* Web site to write a derogatory diatribe mocking the MRC's DisHonors Awards. “Leave it to the right-wing to cross the preposterous line just when you think it reached that point long ago,” Mashek wrote on April 6. He then attacked the DisHonors judges. “The big joke is the panel of judges. They were William F. Buckley Jr., Ann Coulter, Steve Forbes, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Rush Limbaugh, Robert Novak, and L. Brent Bozell.” (In fact, though Mashek cited her three times, Coulter was not a judge.)

Mashek then offered an insult: “The only real journalist in that motley crew in my judgment is Bob Novak The rest of those judges are primarily propagandists or entertainers who have no real standing as journalists with the exception of Buckley. Coulter, Limbaugh, Hannity, and Ingraham are entertainers and not very good at it either.”

Leaks Media Like

ABC, CBS, and NPR praised the recently fired CIA employee Mary McCarthy for her reported leaking of classified national security information to the *Washington Post*, during wartime, about secret terrorists' prisons in Europe—a leak for a story that earned the

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Post a Pulitzer Prize. This national security leak “is a victory for the American people,” Sam Donaldson joyfully remarked on ABC’s *This Week*. “Remember the great American saying, ‘disobedience to tyranny is obedience to God.’”

NPR’s Juan Williams could barely contain his joy at the national security breach. Mary McCarthy’s action was “an act of conscience, an act of honor,”

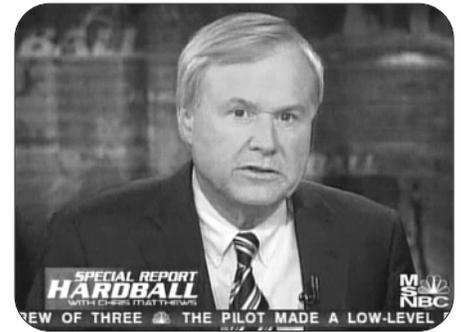


NPR’s Juan Williams praised the disclosure of classified national security information as “an act of honor.”

shouted Williams. Yet when I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby, former Chief of Staff to Vice President Cheney, leaked declassified information related to Iraq and CIA officer Valerie Plame, the liberal media went apoplectic, calling it “retaliation” by a “vengeful” Bush Administration trying to silence war critics. In liberal media land, Mary McCarthy is a hero, Lewis Libby is a hatchet-man.

Stone-ing Bush

Clearly desperate for “news,” *Hardball*’s Chris Matthews turned to *Rolling Stone* magazine on April 19 to promote its Bush-bashing cover: The Worst President in History? “Eric, let me ask you about the cover, because it is gonna’ come out and you’re on to push it, and I want you to push it,” hyped Matthews to *Rolling Stone*’s National Affairs Editor Eric Bates. The latter then predicted that Bush is a “colossal historical disgrace. Can’t predict what’s gonna’ happen in the next two years but so far ranks right down



Apparently desperate for “news,” MSNBC’s Chris Matthews prattled on at length about a *Rolling Stone* magazine cover story slamming President Bush.

there with James Buchanan, Herbert Hoover and Andrew Johnson.”

Matthews was ecstatic and wondered whether Bush had “trashed the economy” or “just shifted wealth to the big taxpayers.” Bates chirped: “Well I think that, that does trash the economy. ... He’s mishandled the biggest natural disaster in American history. ... He’s been very single-minded as he has been in Iraq. It’s been tax cuts, tax cuts, tax cuts.”

MINIBITS

← NBC’s **Katie Couric** praises Ted Kennedy’s national health care plan: “You talk about the things that need to be done, Senator, from ‘reclaiming our constitutional democracy ... to guaranteeing health care for every America[n].’ Noble, noble goals for sure.”

← Fired CBS producer **Mary “Forged Memo” Mapes** blasts Rush Limbaugh: “I don’t need to be lectured on ethics from a much married, obese, drug addict.”

← President Bush “probably also leaked” CIA officer Valerie Plame’s name and, “if he did, you can be hung for that! That’s treason! You could be killed!” rails actor and “legal scholar” **Ben Affleck**. ← **Jane Fonda** complains that “the right wing has been very assiduous in fanning the flame of the myth of Hanoi Jane. You know, they’ve spread lies on the Internet about things I supposedly did that aren’t true.” ← *Newsweek*’s **Eleanor Clift** rants: “President Clinton’s manipulation of words did not set off a chain of events that took us into an unnecessary war and cost people’s lives....The President lied, they see the video clips and they know the consequences of a war with over two thousand people dead.”

← And finally, NBC anchor and “Bible expert” **Brian Williams** opines: “Yesterday, we learned that a manuscript, the only known text of the Gospel of Judas, has surfaced after 1,700 years. It’s a bit beaten up, but it shows Judas was well-regarded by Jesus and perhaps not a treacherous man after all.” Silly Jesus. He never could get anything right.



NBC Nightly News anchor Brian Williams hyped the “Gospel of Judas,” reporting that, in actuality, “Judas was well-regarded by Jesus and perhaps not a treacherous man.”

The Political Pultizers

BY L. BRENT BOZELL III

The recent unveiling of the Pulitzer Prizes had more of the same politicized whiff that the Oscars oozed earlier this year. Merit is taking a back seat now to “edginess” in both the news and entertainment media. “Speaking truth to power” is in vogue, even if it’s not true and even if it’s not in the public interest.

The roster of Pulitzer winners had an unmistakable get-Bush smell to it, especially Dana Priest’s exposing secret prisons in Europe for terrorists in the *Washington Post*, and James Risen’s and Eric Lichtblau’s NSA-surveillance exposure in the *New York Times*. The Pulitzers have a prize for Public Service, but these leaks in the War on Terror might better deserve an award for Public Endangerment. As Bill Bennett put it, many Americans think it’s odd that on these stories, “the leaker can be prosecuted, but the person who wrote it down, told every citizen about it, and told every enemy of every citizen of this country gets a Pulitzer Prize.”

There were other awards. *The Washington Post* won for exposing the offenses of lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Nothing wrong with that except for this: notice that *Post* reporters like Susan Schmidt, whose work on the Abramoff beat won an award this year, never won a Pulitzer for dogged investigations and scoops they unearthed in the Clinton years.

In fact, if you look back through the eight years of the Clintons, you’d be incredibly hard-pressed to find more than one Pulitzer awarded for exposing the ever-bubbling Clinton scandals. In 1999, a *New York Times* team (including ace investigator Jeff Gerth) won for disclosing the “corporate sale of American technology to China, with U.S. government approval.” Columnist Maureen Dowd won that year for her Lewinsky-era columns, but they attacked all sides with equal vigor. She railed against Ken Starr for “dragging us down to the point where we have to hear the sex secrets of crepuscular Republican swamp life” like Rep. Dan Burton.

Even the lesser Pulitzer prizes this year carried a political tinge. Feature photography winner Todd Heisler of the *Rocky Mountain News* won for “his haunting, behind-the-scenes look at funerals for Colorado Marines who return from Iraq in caskets,” it being too difficult, I suppose, to capture visuals of dramatic, front-line scenes of Colorado Marines performing acts of heroism.

Editorial cartooning winner Mike Luckovich of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* won for “simple but

piercing” cartoons like Bush and Cheney saying “we’ve turned the corner” in Iraq – from “Incompetence” to “Fantasy,” and another with Bush telling Daffy Duck he’s doing a “heckuva job” with bird-flu planning.

Perhaps the most audacious award for conservative-bashing-over-merit is the Criticism prize for *Washington Post* fashion writer Robin Givhan, who tried to turn heart patient Dick Cheney’s wearing a parka to an Auschwitz ceremony into an international incident. She also demeaned the family outfits of Supreme Court nominee John Roberts when his nomination was announced. “His wife and children stood before the cameras, groomed and glossy in pastel hues — like a trio of Easter eggs, a handful of Jelly Bellies, three little Necco wafers.” Little wafers? If the Roberts family were not white, that line would have started a major ruckus over “dehumanizing” portrayals.

Meanwhile, when it came to assessing Saddam Hussein’s courtroom suits, she glossed right over the 148 deaths he admitted and talked about how he was in danger of looking “jaunty and rakish” like Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin, a Las Vegas lounge act. There’s a great word for this kind of politicized fashion criticism: shallow. It doesn’t deserve prizes. It deserves to be fish wrap.

The Pulitzer judges are not measuring the degree of talent in the journalistic means, but only the political ends they accomplish. The Pulitzer judges are awarding the media’s endorsements of fashionable left-wing political causes and outcomes, where the rightness of the stories matters less than the rightness of the target selection.

Meanwhile, at CNSNews.com, the reporters and editors are focused on providing Americans, and the world, with the facts: who, what, where, when, and why (when applicable). CNSNews.com is not bent on destroying people or in winning prizes for advancing left-wing ideas. Cybercast News Service is dedicated to presenting all legitimate sides of a story and debunking myths about cultural and policy issues. We win our awards with every story filed and every story read.

L. Brent Bozell's weekly column is nationally syndicated. For more columns, visit www.MRC.org.



AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

Documenting, Exposing and Fighting Media Bias

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

- ✦ FNC, *The O'Reilly Factor* – April 26
- ✦ FNC, *Fox News Watch* – April 22
- ✦ ABC, *News Channel 8* – April 29
- ✦ FNC, *Fox & Friends* – _____???

RADIO

- Paul Harvey, May 9
- Sean Hannity Tuned Into America, April 25
- G. Gordon Liddy, April 28
- NRA News, May 5
- Dateline Washington, April 18, May 4
- Tom Hartman Show, May 12
- Jim Bohannon Show, May 2
- Money Dots on Main Street USA, May 10
- Lars Larson, April 18
- Right Balance, May 3
- State Government Radio, Colorado, April 20
- State Government Radio, North Carolina, April 20
- Accent Radio Network, Clearwater, FL, April 24
- American Family Radio, April 17
- America at Night, April 20, May 10
- Wisconsin Public Radio, May 1, 2006
- WGST, Atlanta, GA, May 3
- KLGO, Austin, TX, May 3
- WDUN, Gainesville, FL, May 2
- KFNN, Phoenix, AZ, May 5
- KSAL-AM, Salina, KS, April 27
- KSEV-AM, Houston, TX, April 27
- WJGR-AM, Jacksonville, FL, April 27
- WIST-AM, New Orleans, April 28
- WDRC-AM, Hartford, CT, April 28
- KVOI-AM, Tuscon, AZ, April 30
- KTLK-AM, Burbank CA, April 30
- WJOL-AM, Crest Hill, IL, May 1
- WAIC-AM, Springfield, MA, April 28
- KPDQ, Portland, OR, April 20
- KCOL, Northern Colorado, April 19, May 5
- KVLI, Beaumont/Houston, TX, April 20
- WAMT, Orlando, FL, April 19
- KROQ, Los Angeles, CA, April 19



On Fox & Friends, Jeff Johnson, investigative reporter for CNSNews.com, discussed the risk of identity theft created when state and local agencies allow anonymous access to confidential personal information posted on government Web sites.

- KXRO, Aberdeen, WA, April 19
- WNAV, Annapolis, MD, April 20
- KFTK, St. Louis, MO, April 19
- WPEG, Charlotte, NC, April 20
- WFLA, Orlando, FL, April 24, May 4
- KSFO, San Francisco, CA, April 26
- KOGO-AM, San Diego, CA, April 18, May 3
- WAIC-AM, Springfield, MA, April 18
- WFLA-AM, Tampa, FL, April 19
- WVOM-AM, Bangor, ME, April 19
- WGIR-AM, Manchester, NH, April 19
- WNTA-AM, Rockford, IL, April 19
- WICH-AM, Norwich, CT, April 19
- KFBK-AM, Sacramento, CA, April 19
- KDKA-AM, Pittsburgh, PA, April 21
- KIT-AM, Yakima, WA, April 25
- KHND-AM, Harvey, ND, April 25
- WHON, Richmond, IN, April 27
- WACV-AM, Montgomery, AL, April 27
- WCLO-AM, Janesville, WI, April 28
- KFKA, Ft. Collins, CO, April 21, May 9
- WJGR, Jacksonville, FL, April 24
- KOGO, San Diego, CA, April 19
- WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, April 20
- WCV, Montgomery, AL, April 18
- KFTK, St. Louis, MO, April 19

PRINT

- Federal News Service, May 10
- Associated Press, May 6
- Newsday, May 5
- Post-Standard, May 4
- Boston Globe, April 30
- Washington Times, April 4, 25, 26, 29, May 8, 9
- Orange County Register, (Larry Elder column), April 22
- Los Angeles Times, April 24
- Baltimore Examiner, April 5, 10, 17
- Investor's Business Daily, April 24
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, April 23, 30, May 8
- Palm Beach Post, March 29
- Canton Repository, April 26
- Albany Times-Union, April 16
- Winston Salem Journal, April 20
- Tampa Tribune, April 18
- Leaf-Chronicle, April 17
- Baltimore Sun, April 16
- San Diego Union-Tribune, April 16
- Alexandria Gazette-Packet, April 13
- Augusta Chronicle, April 15

INTERNET

- Slate.com, May 10
- National Review Online, May 1
- Movieweb.com, May 2
- Wall Street Journal Online, April 30
- CBS News Public Eye blog, April 21
- New Media Journal, April 17, 22, 24, May 8
- Human Events Online, April 14, 20, 26, 27, May 1, 4, 5
- RedState blog, April 18
- NewsMax.com, April 29
- ChronWatch, April 21, May 3, 6, 9
- The Hotline (National Journal), April 21
- Townhall.com, April 20
- Conservativevoice.com, April 18

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Who is the beneficiary of your estate?

Your Family?

Charitable Organizations?

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Without a will and proper planning, the government could be the primary beneficiary of your estate.

To stop this from happening, make sure you have a will that distributes your assets in accordance with your principles and beliefs.

Including the Media Research Center in your estate plans guarantees that America's Media Watchdog will continue to document, expose, and neutralize the liberal media for years to come – a fine legacy indeed!

If you have already included us in your will or living trust, please let us know so that we may properly thank you.

For more information, please call Thom Golab at (800) 672-1423 or visit us online at www.mrc.gift-planning.org.

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