Liberals in Congress are plotting to re-impose the so-called “Fairness Doctrine” to censor conservative talk radio — a step they plan to take after the November election, and the liberal media are, by and large, not saying too much about the plan. But we are — through our Web site, a national press conference, a new Special Report, and in regular updates to our friends. The Fairness Doctrine — a federal regulation set by the Federal Communications Commission — was in effect from 1949 to 1987, at which time President Ronald Reagan helped put it out of its misery. The rule says that the public airwaves must have political balance and provide both sides to any controversial public policy issue.

When Reagan killed the rule, talk radio blossomed and especially conservative talk radio, with the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Michael Reagan, G. Gordon Liddy, Laura Ingraham, Sean Hannity, Mark Levin, Janet Parshall and so many other talented people. The liberals, of course, couldn’t stand it and did everything they could to try to counter, criticize and compete. But they failed. In the marketplace of ideas, where Americans can freely choose to listen to what they want on the radio, they tuned into conservative talk radio. And they’re still doing so, by the tens of millions.

As a result — along with the growth of the new media — the liberal media monopoly was broken to a degree. Conservative talk radio is big, but not nearly as big as the networks — ABC, CBS, NBC — which reach more than 45 million Americans every day. That’s also not counting outlets like The New York Times, USA Today and Hollywood.

Nonetheless, the liberals want their media monopoly back. With a Democrat-controlled Congress and a presidential election on the horizon, the liberals are plotting the return of the Fairness Doctrine. While the Media Research Center has reported over the last two years that certain folks such as Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Sen. Dianne Fienstein (D-Calif.), among others, want the doctrine reinstated, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) let the cat out of the bag on June 24.

At a breakfast hosted by the Christian Science Monitor, Pelosi was asked about the Fairness Doctrine and she said, “yes,” she fully supported reinstating it. Pelosi was also asked about a bill sponsored by Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.), the Broadcaster Freedom Act — the bill would permanently ban the Fairness Doctrine. While the legislation is still in committee, Pence and others have pushed for a “discharge petition,” which means that if enough congressional signatures are gathered, the bill has to be sent to the House floor for a vote.

To get the petition discharged, 218 signatures are needed. So far, 194

Continued on page 2
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House representatives have signed on, all of them Republicans. Not one Democrat has signed the petition although some have publicly said they oppose the Fairness Doctrine. Even Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) has said he opposes the doctrine.

Yet here’s the chicanery. When asked about the petition and the Broadcaster Freedom Act, Pelosi said she would not allow it to get to the House floor. “The interest in my caucus is the reverse,” Pelosi said, adding that other Democrats have been active in working to get the Fairness Doctrine re-instated. Pelosi went on to note that there are other bills Congress must deal with this summer and in the fall.

In other words, no vote on a bill to end the Fairness Doctrine until after the November election. It seems pretty clear that the liberals are gambling on a big Democratic Party win in November, after which they can slide the Fairness Doctrine back into play and essentially shut down conservative talk radio.

For while the doctrine is supposed to apply to news coverage on the “public” airwaves, it does not in effect apply to ABC’s World News, the NBC Nightly News or the CBS Evening News. (Nor does it apply to The New York Times or The Washington Post.) That’s why the liberal media aren’t saying much about the issue, and it’s also partly why the doctrine is absurd, one-sided and fundamentally anti-American.

It is a draconian attempt by big government to shut out conservative ideas where it can. Talk radio is flourishing and conservatives are finally having their voices heard, so liberals want to shut them up by government mandate.

That’s what’s happening. Prior to the November election, the liberal Speaker of the House won’t allow a vote on freedom of speech — the Broadcaster Freedom Act — because she knows that it likely will pass because some Democrats joined with Republicans last year to support a one-year moratorium on re-implementing the Fairness Doctrine.

If liberals are seen as voting against free speech now, it will look bad going into the November election — thus the stealth plan.

In anticipation of all this, the MRC has been busy. In addition to the information posted on our Web site about the issue, we joined a national press conference on June 11 and called for a permanent repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, along with other conservative leaders such as Laura Ingraham and Grover Norquist.

We issued press releases and informed the grassroots. In addition, in June, the MRC’s Culture and Media Institute published a new Special Report, Unmasking the Myths Behind the Fairness Doctrine. It details the history of the regulation and how it has been abused by presidents to chill free speech, notably by John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. The report also documents that the liberal media are in no dire need of having their message heard, as they dominate the networks, the newspapers, cable TV, newsweekly magazines, as well as daytime TV and Hollywood.

The Fairness Doctrine is an abomination of free speech and the Constitution. Without the free exchange of ideas, there cannot be a democracy.

Thanks to your kind support, the MRC is able to inform Americans about what the liberals are truly up to and how much is at stake. This issue is a tough fight, but we intend to not give an inch and to stay on the offensive.

Yours truly,

Brent Bozell
Founder and President
Latest Rasmussen Poll Confirms The MRC Is Right — Again

The stated goal of the Media Research Center is to document and expose the liberal agenda of the national “news” media for all of America to see. Yet another survey shows America is hearing us — and agreeing. A June poll by the highly respected Rasmussen Reports found that the media are overwhelmingly biased to the left and that a majority of Americans do not trust the media, especially in this presidential election year.

Only “17 percent of voters nationwide believe that most reporters try to offer unbiased coverage of election campaigns,” the poll found, while “four times as many — 68 percent — believe most reporters try to help the candidate that they want to win.”

Further, the poll showed that “54 percent say Barack Obama has gotten the best coverage so far,” while just “22 percent say McCain has received the most favorable coverage.”

In a press release in reference to the poll, MRC President Brent Bozell said: “This poll echoes what the MRC has been saying for more than two decades. Since 1987, we’ve captured hundreds of thousands of examples of the media’s cheerleading for liberal candidates and causes.

“We’ve watched the prolonged, pronounced collapse of the network newscasts, national news magazines and national newspapers as a result of their liberal bias, and seen talk-radio, Internet news outlets and the Fox News Channel rush to ably fill the credibility void.

“This year’s fawning over Barack Obama, which several reporters have publicly admitted to witnessing and indeed being a part of, has only served to increase and intensify the public’s disillusionment with the national press.

“The media should be ashamed at these findings.”

Some of the other findings of the poll revealed:

- 76 percent of voters think the media have too much power and influence over elections
- 65 percent of “moderate” voters think reporters are “advocates, not just scribes.”
- 33 percent of “liberal” voters think the media are objective
- 44 percent think reporters will try to help Democrat Barack Obama
- 13 percent think reporters will try to help Republican John McCain
- 27 percent of “Democratic” voters think the media will try to help Obama

For more information on liberal media bias, visit www.mrc.org and click on “Media Bias Basics,” or call the MRC at 703-683-9733.

Remembering Russert

Successful author and former CBS reporter Bernard Goldberg recounted in the June 18 Wall Street Journal that NBC’s Tim Russert, who died of heart failure in June, was one of the few top journalists willing to discuss liberal media bias in public. “What made Tim Russert different, and better, I think was his willingness to listen to — and take seriously — criticism about his own profession,” said Goldberg. “He was willing, for example, to keep an open mind about a hot-button issue like media bias — an issue that so many of his colleagues dismiss as the delusions of right-wing media haters.”

When Goldberg wrote his book on media bias, “no one in network television wanted to discuss the issue, no matter how many Middle Americans thought it was important,” Goldberg noted. “Russert was the lone exception. He had me on his CNBC interview show, and we talked about bias for a full hour.”
Economy Hurts Pets

In its never-ending drive to spin bad news going into an election year, the NBC Nightly News on June 25 ran a story about how the economy is apparently not just hurting people but also “the innocent victims of the foreclosure crisis” — the dogs, pigs, goats and horses. Anchor Brian Williams introduced the report, with a picture of a puppy and the words “Tough Times” in the background.

Reporter Chris Jansing then talked about a woman who “has never experienced anything like this — not just dogs and cats, but horses, pigs, goats — so many, she has to turn away three out of four animals.” A local official in Los Angeles fretted: “Pets seem to be the silent victims of this whole economic downturn.” Jansing next conveyed the deadly consequences: “The harsh reality is, as more animals come in, more animals have to be put down. ... [A]t shelters across the country, euthanasia rates are going up.”

More Taxes!

NBC’s Today stumbled upon the obvious on June 20, with a report about how higher gas prices equals less driving, which equals lower revenues from federal and state gas taxes. And NBC’s suggested solution equals ... more taxes. With gas over $4 a gallon, Americans are buying less gas and driving less, reported NBC’s Tom Costello, adding, “We use federal tax money that comes from gasoline sales to maintain the nation’s roads and bridges. We’re looking at a billion-plus-dollar short fall right now, and the National Governors Association wants Congress to come in and fill the gap.”

“Filling the gap” could mean hiking the tax on gasoline or supplementing the highway fund with other tax dollars. Maybe the real “bad news” for consumers is that some politicians want to confiscate as much tax money as possible whether drivers buy gas or not.

... And More Taxes!

One of The New York Times’s most liberal columnists, Thomas Friedman, was given a stage on NBC’s Today show June 24 to push his propaganda for a new $1 tax on gasoline. Co-host Meredith Vieira quoted from Friedman’s columns on the tax and his energy plan?” harped Friedman. “Right after 9/11, gasoline in this country was $1.60 a gallon. A lot of people like myself, at the time, said we need to have a gasoline tax, a $1.00 gallon phased in over a year, year-and-a-half that will stimulate the kind of innovation and investment in alternatives so we won’t be dependent on people who have drawn a bull’s eye on our back. What did the president do? He told us to go shopping. ... So it’s actually a complete, incoherent mess. That has resulted where we are.”

CBS: Anti-McCain

CBS’s Early Show ran a segment June 23 on the “five things you should know about John McCain,” listing: “Number four, a maverick even back in high school, John McCain was nick-named ‘the punk’ ... A reputation that followed him to the naval academy.” Then, in the same report, former USA Today columnist Walter Shapiro chimed in, “John McCain graduated five slots from the bottom of the Annapolis class of 1958.”

The Early Show ran a similar segment on Democrat Barack Obama on June 18. Note the difference: “Number four — in addition to enjoying basketball and cycling during down time, Obama loves to play Scrabble. ... Obama’s job as a teenager was at a Baskin Robbins and to this day he does not like ice cream.” The story went on to detail how Obama met his wife and where he buys his suits.

Blame the Men

Michelle Obama has made disturbing statements about whether she is proud of America, and she also attended, with her husband, the racist church led by Rev. Jeremiah Wright for many years. Nonetheless, those controversial actions are irrelevant, according to CNN’s Roland Martin who, on June 17, reported on Anderson Cooper 360 that it was all the fault of conservative men.

“I think what you have is you’ve got some weak men on the conservative side who, frankly, don’t like strong women,” lectured Martin. “I mean, we saw the exact same thing
take place for Hillary Clinton back in 1992. ... All of a sudden, Michelle Obama is this angry black woman when, in fact, she’s an accomplished woman, a mother, a wife. And so, they are trying to define her in that way, because they don’t want to deal with the reality.” Martin went on to inform the ignorant masses: “This is a woman who is an executive for a hospital. She can discuss health care.”

Tragic Marxist?
  
  CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric lamented the dictatorial and violence-laden state of Zimbabwe in a June 24 report but somehow forgot to make the connection between the situation there and the Marxist policies of its ruler, Robert Mugabe. “The fear and danger that now pervades the streets of Zimbabwe under President Robert Mugabe is a tragic departure from the hope and promise that began with his landslide victory nearly 30 years ago,” intoned the ratings-in-the-basement Couric.

She rambled on: “When Robert Mugabe was first elected in 1980, he was a hero. He was seen as one of Africa’s most promising black leaders...The son of a carpenter, the revolutionary and former school teacher said he had, quote, ‘inherited the jewel of Africa.’ ...But in the ‘90s, Mugabe became more authoritarian. This one-time revolutionary squashed all opposition and faced charges of cronynism and corruption.” Marxism doesn’t work, and the liberal media still don’t understand why.

Commie Propaganda
  
  CNN would never do a story highlighting and praising a Nazi youth group but when it comes to Communist youth groups, it’s a different story. On the June 16 American Morning, CNN’s Shasta Darlington waxed about Elian Gonzalez – the boy forcibly returned to Cuba by Bill Clinton’s Attorney General Janet Reno - who, as a new member of Cuba’s Young Communist League now, “vowed he would always follow the examples of Fidel Castro and his brother, Raul, Cuba’s new President.”

Gonzalez took the “first step that, for a select few, lead to a bright political future in Cuba,” swooned Darlington, adding that “Fidel Castro himself led the ideological battle to bring Gonzalez back to Cuba and his father.” Darlington also said that joining the Young Communist League shows “a certain commitment to the revolution and to the party that not all youngsters have.” CNN: Castro News Network.

Minibits

- Columnist and former TIME bureau chief Margaret Carlson opines, “If there’s anything we need to rescue us from the last eight years, it’s brains, good judgment and experience. Obama has the first two. Gore has all three.”
- Today show’s Lee Cowan waxes, “In victory and in defeat Michelle Obama had always been there, dressed as brightly as her husband’s smile.”
- In reference to Stacy McCain, New York Times reporter Alessandra Stanley writes: “As the Equal Rights Amendment faded as a cause and conservatism made a comeback, Republican spouses became ever more careful to stay three steps behind their men and the times.”
- CBS’s Lara Logan, born in South Africa, laments that U.S. news coverage is too conservative: “If I were to watch the news that you’re hearing in the United States, I’d just blow my brains out. ‘Cause it would drive me nuts.”
- Former ABC reporter Linda Douglass, now an Obama spokesman, reveals the obvious: “I have fundamental differences with John McCain on the issues and always have. I don’t have any problem criticizing John McCain.”
- CBS’s David Letterman whines to Scott McClellan about Bush and Cheney that they “just couldn’t care less about Americans” because “all they really want to do is somehow kiss up to the oil people so they can get some great annuity when they’re out of office. Is there any humanity in either of these guys?”
- CNN’s Wolf Blitzer complains that “ExxonMobil and the other big oil companies are awash in record profits,” not mentioning the record government gas taxes.

- CNN’s Wolf Blitzer whines that U.S. oil companies are “awash in record profits,” not mentioning the record government gas taxes.
Liberal Smears Unchallenged

The general election season is under way, and the leftists are already displaying their hypocrisy. They’ve launched pre-emptive warnings against a Republican “swiftboating” of Barack Obama at the same time they’re making up wild allegations about the villainous ultraconservative plots against goodness planned by John McCain. The supposed civility police in the media are emphasizing the Obama warnings of a right-wing onslaught, but not the nasty leftist attacks on McCain. Once again, Republicans are painted as the agents of character assassination, while Democrats are angels whose style is sweet civility and whose substance is the refreshing truth.

Obama’s campaign is putting up its dukes with a new website called “Fight the Smears.” It’s topped by an inspirational quote from Obama’s June 3 victory speech. “What you won’t hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge or patriotism as a bludgeon.” In the words of the Almighty Barack, Team Obama pledges to steer clear of negative personal attacks, and avoid seeing their opponents “not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first.”

The Democrats and the media are going to take a holiday from demonizing conservatives and Republicans? Ridiculous.

Try this exercise. Sign up for Fight the Smears electronic “Action Wire” alerts, and you receive this message from Obama’s fundraisers: “Now take the next step and make a donation to help push back on the petty and divisive methods of our opponents.” So much for not demonizing the opponents.

Already, Obama’s army of left-wing slime merchants is up on the television airwaves running ridiculous commercials. Did you see the one from MoveOn.org? It features a quavering blond mommy talking about how her baby makes her heart pitter-patter fiercely, but she’s gravely concerned the baby might be going to war. “John McCain, when you say we would stay in Iraq for a hundred years, were you counting on Alex? Because if you were, you can’t have him.”

What a pile of ridiculously inaccurate assumptions. First, we have an all-volunteer military. Second, even if President McCain were elected, he wouldn’t serve in office for eighteen years so he could make sure all the liberal babies of 2008 are sent to Iraq. USA Today was one of the few media outlets to suggest this ad was a foul ball. The Washington Post declared it “dramatically and personally” illustrated McCain’s open-ended approach to Iraq better than Obama had done.

Just as Obama’s media allies are silent about the left’s hypocritical approach to negative campaigns, so too are they silent about nasty left-wing videos on YouTube. Robert Greenwald’s “Brave New Films” collective has a commercial suggesting that under John McCain, contraceptives would be banned in America. They call their campaign “The Real McCain.” The ad is set in “President McCain’s Women’s Health Clinic.” When a woman asks the perky blond nurse there about her contraceptive options, she’s handed a list. When the woman protests it’s a blank piece of paper and repeats that she asked about birth-control options, the nurse cheerily replies: “And at the McCain Clinic, you don’t have any.”

Then a graphic reads: “John McCain voted against requiring insurance companies to cover prescription birth control.” The fallacious argument within is that if the government doesn’t pay for contraceptives, or force insurers to pay for contraceptives, then no contraceptives are available. There’s no “option” to purchase your own condoms or birth-control prescriptions? Where are the media smear-fighters on this obvious howler?

Or take a virulent campaign called “I’m Voting Republican” from a firm accurately called Synthetic Human Pictures. Their Republicans are synthetic caricatures. A male doctor proclaims “I’m voting Republican because I don’t really want a cure for AIDS and breast cancer. They’re just gays and women.” This video clearly isn’t meant to be factual, just vicious. This video has 2.3 million views at YouTube.

Cynical liberals think that the only way Obama can lose is for conservatives to take their well-traveled “low road” with negative ads. They’ve utterly forgotten — if they ever acknowledged — the low road they’ve traveled with millions of dollars in harsh ads against George W. Bush in the last two election cycles. Negative campaigning doesn’t always work. But the media always see negative campaigning as a game only Republicans and conservatives play.
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**

**CNN:**
- The Situation Room, June 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 30

**CBN:**
- Newswatch, June 18, 19

**FNC:**
- Special Report with Brit Hume, June 2, 10, 16, 20, 25, 30, July 2
- Fox & Friends, June 20, 21
- Just In, July 1
- America’s Election HQ, July 7

**Radio**

Rush Limbaugh Show, June 3, 19
Mark Levin Show, June 4, 11, 15, 30
Sean Hannity Show, June 11, 12, 16
Bill Bennett Show, June 26
Michael Reagan Show, June 25
American Family Radio, June 10, 16
The Right Balance, June 3, 11, 13
Dateline Washington, June 12, 13
Mancow Morning Madness, Jun 16
Focus on the Family, June 11
Radio Factor, June 9
Flipside Show, June 9
Blog Talk Radio, June 11
Frontrunner, June 11
Wall Builders Live, June 5
Martha Zoeller Show, June 11
Janet Parshall’s America, June 12
Steve Malzberg Show, June 13
WAVA, Washington, DC, June 10
WSAU, Wausau, WI, June 13, 16
WYLL, Chicago, IL, June 13
WZNB, Jacksonville, FL, June 11
KVI, Seattle, WA, June 11
WBAL, Baltimore, MD, June 13
WAMT, Orlando, FL, June 16
KGLO, Mason City, IA, June 16
KMED, Medford, OR, June 16

**Internet**

The Drudge Report, June 10, 13, 20
Michelle Malkin, Hotair.com, June 30
National Review Online, June 6, 19
Digg.com, June 8
Stop the ACLU, June 8
Townhall.com, June 11, 17, 20
Yahoo! News, July 3, 5
CitizenLink, June 12
OneNewsNow, June 13, 18
RightSideNews, June 11
HumanEventsOnline, June 13
Huffingtonpost blog, June 6,
Daily News Record, June 3
American Thinker, June 3
ABC News.com, June 2
CNN Anderson Cooper blog, June 5
CBN News.com, June 18
No Moss Here blog, June 17
Falling Panda blog, June 16
Dakota Voice, June 16
AOL Journals, June 15
Slate.com, June 13
The Raw Story, June 11
A Good Choice blog, June 11
TV Newser, June 4
Radio Equalizer blog, June 12
Daily Kos, June 10
Canadian Free Press, June 30
Rep. Mike Pence’s blog, June 12
Kansas City Star Online, June 4, 8, 12

**Print**

Washington Times, June 3, 10, 13, 19
The Hill, June 12
Human Events, June 12, 13, 17, 19
Washington Examiner, June 13
Investor’s Business Daily, June 2, 20, July 3
Leaf-Chronicle, June 15
Journal of Psychology, June 1
Northwest Florida Daily News, June 28
Chicago Tribune, June 19, 29
Harrisonburg Daily News, June 30
Statesman Journal, June 30
The Economist, June 19
National Journal, June 13
National Post, June 17

**On Fox & Friends, MRC President Brent Bozell details the pro-Obama and anti-McCain liberal media bias.**

On CNN’s The Situation Room, CNS’s Terry Jeffrey analyzes the campaign strategy of Democrat Barack Obama.
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For more information, call Thom Golab at (800) 672-1423. You can also visit us online at www.mrc.gift-planning.org.

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