Dear Member,

When CBS decided to move The Reagans miniseries to Showtime, it was a victory for the Media Research Center, conservatives and the legacy of Ronald Reagan.

But more importantly, it was a victory for the truth.

The Reagans miniseries – as I repeatedly pointed out in network interviews – was nothing more than a partisan, dishonest political attack on our nation’s most beloved president, who is near death from Alzheimer’s. The MRC, I am proud to tell you, played a key role in forcing CBS to get rid of this slimy program, which was full of outright lies about the former president.

We were able to do this because we were right, a fact that even CBS Chairman Les Moonves admitted after he watched the film. “Upon seeing the finished product, I felt the movie was quite biased against the Reagans,” Moonves said on November 5, the day after he had decided to move the program.

The uproar against The Reagans started innocently enough. On October 21, Jim Rutenberg, a media reporter for the New York Times, detailed the shortcomings of the miniseries in a lengthy article. According to Rutenberg, who was one of the few people outside of CBS who had seen the script, the film overlooked the historic economic expansion that took place during the Reagan years and portrayed the former president as a mean-spirited hater.

“During a scene in which his wife pleads with him to help people battling AIDS, Mr. Reagan says resolutely, ‘They that live in sin, shall die in sin’ and refuses to discuss the issue further,’” Rutenberg wrote.

Internet journalist Matt Drudge kept the story alive for the next several days by publishing pieces of a leaked script. These snippets made it clear the movie would portray Reagan as a religious fanatic. In one of the totally fictional scenes reported by Drudge, an emotional Reagan turns to Nancy at the height of the Iran-Contra scandal and goes on a Bible-thumping bender that ends with his fanatical proclamation that “I am the anti-Christ!”

This depiction of Reagan as an unstable, anti-gay religious zealot was no accident. The miniseries’ producers, Neal Meron and Craig Zadan, are gay activists with a vested interest in belittling religion and promoting homosexuality. In 1995, they worked with fellow liberal activist Barbra Streisand to make Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story, a movie that heroically portrayed a lesbian military officer’s legal battles with the Pentagon. Meron and Zadan also produced the Lifetime network’s What Makes a Family, a gay

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propaganda piece about a lesbian’s battle to retain the child her late partner bore.

To make certain Reagan and his wife would be portrayed in the most negative manner possible, Meron and Zadan chose actors who shared their hatred of the former president. Streisand’s husband James Brolin was chosen to play Reagan and Australian actress Judy Davis was cast as Nancy.

“The stars gloated about how controversial their film would be,” the New York Times’ Alessandra Stanley reported on November 6. “Brolin said his portrayal of Mr. Reagan was partly inspired by the Reagan puppet on the British satirical show Spitting Image. Judy Davis, who plays Nancy Reagan, pompously said she hoped the film would teach Americans to scrutinize their elected leaders more carefully.”

The backgrounds of the producers and actors, combined with the script excerpts published by Rutenberg and Drudge, made it clear that something had to be done – and the MRC led the way.

On October 28, I sent a letter to the chief executives of the top 100 advertisers in the country. In the letter, I explained the MRC’s objection to the movie’s portrayal of Reagan and asked these corporate leaders to personally review the program, and if they found it to be unfair and offensive, not to advertise on it.

The letter struck a chord with the advertisers and the media. For the next seven days, the MRC staff and I explained and debated our position in interview after interview. I appeared on the CBS Evening News, ABC’s World News Tonight, Fox News’ Hannity & Colmes, the Fox & Friends morning show, and did interviews with the New York Times and Associated Press reporters whose stories would appear in dozens of newspapers across the country. Vice President of Research and Publications Brent Baker gave at least a dozen more newspaper interviews and Tim Graham, our Director of Media Analysis, appeared on The Rush Limbaugh Show, several other major radio programs and MSNBC’s Scarborough Country. Director of Research Rich Noyes commented on the movie for Australian radio, the Chicago Tribune, CNN International and several more radio programs.

In total, the MRC’s efforts were cited in at least 162 news stories about The Reagans. This included stories in some of the nation’s largest newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Houston Chronicle and Miami Herald. Fifteen Internet news sites, including MSNBC.com and CNN.com, two of the most visited sites in the world, also ran stories that cited the MRC’s work in stopping this atrocity.

Our hard work paid off. On November 4, exactly one week after we had sent the letter to advertisers, CBS announced it was cancelling the show. Instead, CBS’ parent company, Viacom, will show the miniseries on the pay-cable (i.e. no advertising) channel Showtime. While the movie will still be shown, it will appear before a fraction of the intended original audience, who will have to pay to see it.

CBS’ decision to pull The Reagans from its lineup was a huge victory for our cause. As always, I thank you for the support that made it possible.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

The MRC’s Annual Star-Studded Gala and DisHonors Awards

On Thursday, March 18, 2004, join a thousand movers and shakers of the conservative movement at the Omni Shoreham Hotel for “The most humorous night in Washington!”

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RESERVE YOUR Seat TODAY!

Photos above are from past MRC galas and represent only a handful of the personalities who participate in or attend the annual event.
CBS Chairman Les Moonves’ admission that The Reagans miniseries was a horribly biased film unworthy of being shown on the network mattered little to the nation’s leftist media.

They attacked the MRC for bringing this planned atrocity to the public’s attention and claimed our actions were nothing less than censorship.

CNBC’s Brian Williams characterized conservative complaints about The Reagans as “extortion” and “dangerous” in questions to guests on his November 4 program. On the same night, NBC’s Mike Taibbi told viewers Hollywood was frightened by the specter of conservative censors and was worried “which program and which network would be targeted next.” Left-wing media critic Neal Gabler told the Associated Press that CBS’ decision had done “incredible harm.” A couple of days later on Fox News Watch, Gabler ridiculously claimed that the “right wing now has veto power over what we see on broadcast television.”

The most outrageous commentary came from the nation’s largest newspapers, whose editorial boards were upset that millions of outraged Americans had forced a movie full of lies about a dying man to be pulled from a major network. The New York Times huffily accused the MRC and others of ushering in a “Soviet-style chill,” where critical portrayals of recent leaders will not be allowed. The Washington Post had their hackles up as well, claiming “the people who create such entertainments ought to answer to their audiences – not to panels of self-appointed editors or the organizations that can generate the most e-mail.”

What hypocrites. Less than three years ago, radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger’s planned television program was stopped dead in its tracks because the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) objected. She hadn’t lied and there was nothing wrong with her television show. They just didn’t like her, period.

There was no media outcry over this “censorship,” however. All those media outlets so upset with the MRC had no problem with GLAAD.

Then there’s Mel Gibson’s movie, The Passion of Jesus Christ. For the last several months, the Anti-Defamation League and other groups have conducted a highly-organized campaign to stop the movie from being shown in theaters. But there are no newspaper editorials or network news stories denouncing those efforts.

The reason is simple. The left-wing media, despite their “concerns” about free speech, remain relentlessly partisan and willingly support efforts that advance the liberal agenda, while condemning those that support – or even just defend the honor of – conservatives.

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Best-Selling Author
Praises the MRC...Again

“...The quotations that follow are courtesy of the Media Research Center, which as far as a lot of liberal media elites are concerned is a right-wing outfit outside Washington, DC, populated by a bunch of conservatives who spend way too much time monitoring way too many television sets and reading way too many newspapers and who get way too excited when they spot even the slightest hint of liberal bias in the news.

“Are the elves at the MRC conservative? Absolutely! Do they love poking holes in liberal media elites? Sure! But so what? What they put out are actual verbatim quotations that come from journalists themselves. On this, the Media Research Center is meticulous. So, with the understanding that many elite journalists hate them, I offer up this observation, with apologies to Harry Truman: The MRC folks don’t give the media hell; they just tell the truth and the media think it’s hell.”

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Mention that you read about the offer in FLASH.

Rush Limbaugh, after all, was forced out at ESPN for far milder comments than those uttered by Totenberg, wasn’t he?

Networks Censor Partial Birth Debate

When the Senate banned partial-birth abortions on October 21, the broadcast networks tiptoed around the gruesome nature of the procedure.

This was hardly a surprise. An MRC study conducted shortly after the Senate ban found that broadcast journalists almost never describe the partial-birth abortion procedure, where a live baby is pulled feet first from the womb and its skull punctured.

The MRC found that ABC, NBC and CBS did not describe the procedure in 92 percent (199 of 217) of the stories on the subject over the last eight years. The inhumane procedure was explained in only 18 stories and 15 of those came prior to 1998. In the last five years, broadcast network reporters have described the infant-killing operation on just three occasions, and all were on CBS.

The reason for this lack of candor is not because journalists are queasy and demure. These are the same media who insensitively dismiss the privacy concerns of soldiers’ parents and insist they be allowed to film caskets returning from the conflict in Iraq.

The reason for journalistic reticence in explaining partial-birth procedures is purely political. Journalists are ardently pro-abortion – a 1995 survey found 97 percent of elite journalists were pro-abortion and 84 percent strongly held that view – and they will do everything in their considerable power to support and sustain the abortion movement. And part of that support is willfully hiding just how brutally cruel partial-birth abortions are.

ABC Claims Unprecedented Growth “Falls Flat”

ABC News stooped to a new low in an attempt to dampen enthusiasm about the phenomenal 7.2 percent growth in gross domestic product that occurred during this year’s third quarter.

On the October 30 World News Tonight, ABC correspondent Dean Reynolds highlighted laid off factory workers in South Carolina and Ohio to support his contention that the GDP spurt wasn’t creating jobs. His most devious trick, however, was to cite an ABC News poll that found 71 percent of Americans “think the economy is still bad and only three in ten say things are improving.”

What ABC didn’t tell its viewers was that the poll had been concluded almost a week before the GDP numbers were released. How’s that for journalistic ethics?

NPR’s Angel of Death

On the October 18 Inside Washington, National Public Radio Supreme Court reporter Nina Totenberg said she hoped U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin, who has supposedly suggested that the war on terrorism is a Christian crusade against Islam, is “not long for this world.”

Totenberg immediately caught herself and backtracked. “In his job, in his job,” she yelled to other panelists.

Totenberg’s denial of malice might be believable were it not for her history of hateful remarks. Eight years ago, the NPR reporter wished death upon former North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms, claiming that if there were such a thing as retributive justice, Helms would “get AIDS from a transfusion, or one of his grandchildren will get it.”

While Totenberg’s hateful comments are reason enough for scorn, what’s really contemptuous is the lack of journalistic outrage. If a conservative commentator ever suggested a political opponent should die – even if he didn’t mean it and corrected himself immediately – he would be pilloried night and day and probably forced to resign.

These dishonest shenanigans did not go unnoticed. MRC’s CyberAlert reported the deceitful spin the day after it occurred. Joe Scarborough highlighted the scam, and credited the MRC for the research, on the October 31 Scarborough Country.
Money Corrupts... Unless it Comes From Liberals

National Public Radio recently received a $200 million gift from the estate of Joan Kroc, the widow of McDonald’s founder Ray Kroc.

A liberal Democrat, Kroc had been a major supporter of left-wing causes, giving millions to the Carter Center and establishing “peace institutes” at the universities of Notre Dame and San Diego. According to the director of the Notre Dame institute, Kroc was “single-minded in her dedication to eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons and all forms of violence.”

The size of her gift to NPR makes it clear that Kroc felt putting her money into liberal bullhorns like All Things Considered, Morning Edition and Talk of the Nation was the best way to carry on her cherished work of neutering the Pentagon and limiting American military options. Which, whether we agree with her ideas or not – and we do not – was certainly her right as an American.

But NPR had no right to accept the money. Just imagine that generous conservative philanthropist Richard Mellon Scaife had donated this amount, or even one-tenth of this amount to NPR. The political left would be outraged, insisting that NPR was being compromised and that the money must be returned.

Yet, not a single liberal voice of concern was raised over Kroc’s donation. Liberal money, it appears, just doesn’t have the corrupting influence conservative money does.

ABC’s Assault on Jesus Christ

ABC News reporter Elizabeth Vargas advertised the November 3 special, Jesus, Mary and da Vinci, as a program that would reveal “surprising truths.” It turned out that the “surprising truths” revealed were ABC’s journalistic sloppiness, lack of research and anti-Catholic hostility.

The “news” program was based on a novel, The da Vinci Code, a work of fiction that maintains Jesus was married, had a child, and that a secret society – artist Leonardo da Vinci was supposedly a member – was formed to protect the truth from an oppressive Catholic Church.

Mini-bits

New York Times Magazine contributing writer James Traub says “today’s Republican Party in arguably the most extreme – the furthest from the center – of any governing majority in the nation’s history” New York Times London reporter Warren Hoge tells Reuters that “America is now something of a rogue state, a pariah nation”...”[Most reporters] are on the humane side, and that would appear to many to be on the liberal side” former CBS anchor Walter Cronkite claims. So does that mean conservatives are inhumane? “If this is winning,” CBS’s Bob Schieffer says of the war in Iraq, “you have to ask the question: How much of this winning can we stand?” Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean “is a closet centrist” according to the Washington Post’s E.J. Dionne Wall Street Journal editor Al Hunt adds that “[Dean] didn’t govern as a liberal. He’s not really a liberal” ABC’s George Stephanopoulos sees only one way out of the deficit hole, asking former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin: “What taxes would you raise?”
Principled Americans and groups like the Media Research Center scored an important success when they raised legitimate concerns over a planned CBS movie about former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy.

This outcry resulted in the November decision by CBS to cancel the network’s planned broadcast of a two-part Reagan miniseries, which CBS chief Les Moonves himself conceded wasn’t as balanced and fair to the Reagans as it should have been.

While the outcry over the Reagan movie resulted in a high profile retreat for historical revisionists, another retreat has been going on more quietly in Washington this year and is expected to come to fruition within a month or so. Only this one doesn’t involve one of the most successful presidents of the 20th Century; it involves arguably the most important president in American history.

Back in February, CNSNews.com – Cybercast News Service, the Internet newswire of the Media Research Center – investigated some of the historical presentations in and around Washington, D.C. and published an exclusive report on how an historic video presentation shown at the Lincoln Memorial left visitors with the impression that Abraham Lincoln somehow would have supported abortion, homosexual “rights,” feminism and a raft of other liberal pet causes.

Within hours of our exclusive report, conservative leaders were denouncing the Lincoln video as “pure propaganda,” for the Left and a “perversion and revision of American history.”

The next day, a Member of Congress who sits on the House Appropriations Committee raised concerns about the Lincoln video, suggesting that changing the video might avert what a spokesman called “the need for legislative action.”

Shortly after CNSNews.com’s investigative expose, the National Park Service, which is responsible for the video and other monuments in the city, announced that it had assembled an advisory panel to consider ways in which the Lincoln video could be more balanced.

The story had been covered extensively and thoroughly by CNSNews.com, but it finally showed up in the establishment press November 10 when the Washington Post reported that a “more balanced” Lincoln video would be ready by December.

In reporting on the improved balance in this historic presentation, Washington Post writer Al Kamen noted, “The revision effort began after the conservative CNSNews.com reported on the video in February and some less than positive mail started flowing to the park service.”

According to Kamen’s report, the new Lincoln video will include images from the 1997 Christian Promise Keepers rally in Washington, D.C., along with footage from a celebration following the 1991 Persian Gulf War victory.

Given Lincoln’s well-documented personal faith and perseverance in time of war, it appears these changes will be more appropriate to the 16th president’s character than video of protesters waving signs that read “Council of Churches Lesbian Rights,” or “Keep Abortion Legal.”

But none of this would have happened – and thousands of visitors to the Lincoln Memorial would continue to be subjected to a heavily skewed, liberal version of our Civil War president – if it weren’t for CNSNews.com taking the time to investigate and expose this corruption of the historical record.

There are thousands of journalists and hundreds of news agencies represented in Washington, D.C., but only one – one! – decided this historical revisionism of Lincoln’s legacy was newsworthy. That one news agency is CNSNews.com.

The growing use of historic revisionism as a political weapon among American liberals means the job of CNSNews.com as a journalistic watchdog – and your support for these efforts – are more important than ever. If we don’t do it, who else will?
MRC’s Campaign against *The Reagans* Garners National Coverage

Media Research Center spokesmen were cited in at least 162 television, radio and print stories about CBS’s planned Reagan miniseries. Several of these reports credited the MRC with forcing CBS to move the program to Showtime. Listed below is an extensive list of the newspapers, Internet news sites and television and radio programs that interviewed MRC staff or cited the MRC on *The Reagans* controversy.

**National Television**
- MRC President L. Brent Bozell was interviewed about *The Reagans* on the November 4 CBS Evening News and ABC World News Tonight. Segments from Bozell’s interviews with these programs also appeared on CBS’s Early Show and ABC’s Good Morning America. Bozell also appeared on *Fox & Friends* on November 3 and *Fox News Channel’s Hannity & Colmes* on November 7.
- Media Analysis Director Tim Graham appeared on MSNBC’s Scarborough Country on November 4 and on MSNBC’s Dayside on November 5.
- Research Director Rich Noyes appeared on CNN’s International Correspondents program. The program was aired on CNN International from November 10-16.

**Local Television**
- KCNC – Denver, CO
- KLAS – Las Vegas, NV
- KOVR – Sacramento, Stockton and Modesto, CA
- KTVK – Phoenix, AZ
- KXLY – Berkley, CA
- KFXX – Phoenix, AZ
- KION – Monterey, CA
- KMOV – St. Louis, MO
- KNXT – Las Vegas, NV
- KPLS – Los Angeles, CA
- KRLA – Los Angeles, CA
- KSEV – Houston, TX
- KSLR – San Antonio, TX
- KTRH – Houston, TX
- KXNT – Las Vegas, NV
- WAPI – Birmingham, AL
- WBAP – Dallas, TX
- WCBQ – San Diego, CA
- WERC – Birmingham, AL
- WHJU – Providence, RI
- WHK – Independence, OH
- WJR – Detroit, MI
- WLW – Cincinnati, OH
- WMUZ – Grand Rapids, MI
- WOR – New York, NY
- WOSU – Columbus, OH
- WPWT – Bristol, TN
- WRAP – York, PA
- WTVR – Richmond-Petersburg, VA

**Newspapers**
- Baltimore Sun
- Bergen Record (NJ)
- Boston Globe
- Broadcasting & Cable
- Buffalo News
- Capital Times (WI)
- Charlotte Observer
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune
- Christian Science Monitor
- Cincinnati Enquirer
- Contra Costa Times
- Daily Herald (IL)
- Daily Orange (Syracuse Univ.)
- Dallas Morning News
- Deseret News (UT)
- Duluth News-Tribune
- Financial Times (England)
- Ft. Worth Star-Telegram
- Henderson Gleaner (KY)
- Houston Chronicle
- Indianapolis Star
- International Herald Tribune
- Las Vegas Review-Journal
- Los Angeles Times
- Louisville Courier-Journal
- Miami Herald
- Minneapolis Star-Tribune
- National Post (Canada)
- New Orleans Times-Picayune
- New York Daily News
- New York Sun
- New York Times
- Newsday
- Omaha World-Herald
- Orlando Sentinel
- Ottawa Citizen (Canada)
- Provo Daily Herald (UT)
- Raleigh News & Observer
- Rocky Mountain News (CO)
- Sacramento Bee
- Salt Lake City Tribune
- San Diego Union-Tribune
- San Francisco Chronicle
- San Jose Mercury News
- Seattle Post-Intelligencer
- Seattle Times
- South Florida Sun-Sentinel
- Springfield News-Leader (MO)
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- Tallahassee Democrat
- The Advertiser (Australia)
- TheAdvertiser (Australia)
- TheBattalion (TX A&M)
- St. Paul Pioneer-Press
- The Mercury (Australia)
- The Nashville City Paper
- The New Zealand Herald
- The Record (NJ)
- The State (SC)
- Toronto Star (Canada)
- Tri-City Herald (WA)
- USA Today
- Washington Times
- Wichita Eagle (KS)

**Radio**
- The Laura Ingraham Show
- The Rush Limbaugh Show
- Australian Broadcasting
- MetroNews Radio Network
- NPR On Point Network
- BBC London
- KALX – Berkley, CA
- KFXX – Phoenix, AZ
- KION – Monterey, CA
- KMOV – St. Louis, MO
- KOSX – Las Vegas, NV
- KPLS – Los Angeles, CA
- KRLA – Los Angeles, CA
- KSEV – Houston, TX
- KSRL – San Antonio, TX
- KTRH – Houston, TX
- KXNT – Las Vegas, NV
- WAPI – Birmingham, AL
- WBAP – Dallas, TX
- WCBQ – San Diego, CA
- WERC – Birmingham, AL
- WHJU – Providence, RI
- WHK – Independence, OH
- WJR – Detroit, MI
- WLW – Cincinnati, OH
- WMUZ – Grand Rapids, MI
- WOR – New York, NY
- WOSU – Columbus, OH
- WPWT – Bristol, TN
- WSPA – York, PA
- WTVR – Richmond-Petersburg, VA
- WTIX – New Orleans, LA
- WTKF – Morehead City, NC

**Internet News Sites**
- American Daily.com
- AzCentral.com
- Center for American Progress.com
- CNN.com
- Crosswalk.com
- Eonline.com
- FoxNews.com
- Houston Chronicle.com
- IMBD.com (Internet Movie Database)
- MSNBC.com
- Newsmax.com
- Roanoke.com
- Salon.com
- Townhall.com
- Yahoo.com
In Other News

In addition to *The Reagans* coverage, MRC publications and spokesmen were cited on several other topics over the last month.

**War Coverage:** Vice President of Research and Publications Brent Baker commented on the media’s coverage of events in Iraq for the November 10 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

**PBS Hires Conservative Tucker Carlson:** Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham was quoted in the November 7 *Washington Times, Baltimore Sun* and *Seattle Times*. The MRC was also cited in stories on CitizenOnline.net and Washington Post.com.

**Partial Birth Abortion:** CBN.com highlighted an October 27 MRC study that found the gruesome partial birth abortion procedure was not described in 92 percent of ABC’s, CBS’s and NBC’s news stories on the subject.

**Joan Kroc Leaves NPR $200 Million:** The November 7 *Boston Globe* cited a column by MRC President L. Brent Bozell and Graham commented for stories in the *Washington Times and Baltimore Sun*.

**Media Coverage of the Federal Deficit:** The October 22 *Investor’s Business Daily* cited a study from the MRC that showed CBS, NBC and ABC blame tax cuts for the deficits but rarely cited problems with uncontrolled spending.