

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Media Skew News to Undo Election Mandate

Dear Member,

As we predicted last fall, the liberal media are going after President Bush with a vengeance. They tried everything to tilt voters to their side going into the election. It didn't work. So now the media are hammering on any and every issue to undermine conservative ideas and help the Democrats for 2008.

As historian and CBS News analyst Joseph Ellis put it, as a second-term president, "you're a lame duck and the press is really out to get you. And they can get you if they want to get you. And they're going to go after him [Bush]. You can already start to see it. And what the press defines as a scandal becomes a scandal."

Since January, the liberal media have skewed coverage to the left on major issues such as the elections in Iraq, private accounts for Social Security, and even whether the U.S. acted quickly enough to help the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. A close look at how the major media are covering the proposed federal budget reveals the liberal bias for all to see.

In early February, the White House sent to Congress a proposed federal budget for

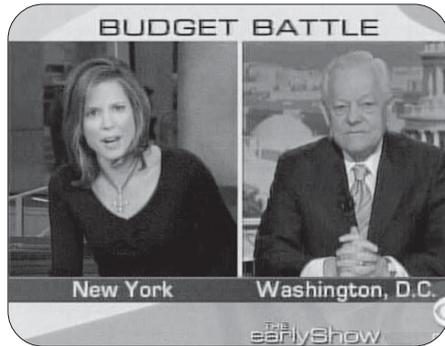
FY2006 totaling \$2.57 trillion, the largest budget in the history of the United States. The budget, as is, would cut the federal deficit to \$390 billion next year and would cut back on

spending for 150 programs – but it is a spending reduction that amounts to a miniscule 0.8 percent of the entire budget.

Less than 1 percent of nearly \$3 trillion would be trimmed and only a few programs out of literally thousands would actually be eliminated. Nonetheless, as MRC Vice President for Research Brent Baker has documented, the liberal media are apoplectic.

On the day the budget was released, Monday, Feb. 7, the morning network news shows described the 0.8 percent trim as "severe cutbacks" and "steep cuts" – a budget that will "slash spending."

Slash spending?! How do you "slash" 0.8 percent of anything? Yet that's the spin from the liberal media. That night, the *CBS Evening News* quoted Robert Greenstein from the left-wing Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. He described the budget as "cuts in programs



Bush's budget calls for a 0.8% spending reduction. Thus, CBS's Hannah Storm said the budget was "being slashed," and Bob Schieffer said the plan was "unrealistic," and the government must "find some money" for the programs.

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America's Media Watchdog

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for the working poor, low-income elderly people, people with disabilities.” CBS reporter Lee Cowan said the “cuts” were “unwanted news,” a “slashing of farm subsidies,” and cuts “where block grants help the homeless and the hungry.” Cowan, not surprisingly, failed to cite a single budget number.

He wasn’t alone. His ideological colleague on the Feb. 8 CBS *Early Show*, Hannah Storm, said these “most popular” programs are “being slashed.” “We’re talking about farm subsidies and environmental and educational programs and health care for the poor and veterans.” ... and Lions, and Tigers, and Bears, oh my!

Not to worry, though, CBS’s Bob Schieffer told Hannah Storm. The President’s budget is “fairly unrealistic,” and he’ll have to raise taxes rather than really cut spending. “I think, in the end, this President will raise taxes before his term is out, just like Ronald Reagan raised taxes after he enacted those enormous tax cuts at the beginning of his program,” said Schieffer. “The government has just got to find some money to finance these programs.”

Got to? Must fund these programs? So much for balanced reporting. And Schieffer, of course, is now the interim anchor, replacing Dan Rather, for the CBS *Evening News*. Clearly, CBS has no intention of cleaning out its liberally biased media house.

As for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and all the other “victims” of the 0.8 percent cutback ... well... the liberal media seemed to have a hard time finding them. This is not to belittle or mock the truly needy in America who require assistance, and often get it through private charities, churches and community groups. The poor are always with us and we have a duty to help them. But what is the best way to help them?

Private Social Security accounts, for instance, would help all workers retire with more of their own money, which they could also pass on to their children. Less government spending across-the-board would mean more money in people’s pockets, which would mean more spending and investment in the private sector: the real world. That means more growth and prosperity for more Americans, provided the government stops interfering with the marketplace.

This is all part of the story which the liberal media won’t discuss. And it’s why the MRC does what we do, to help bring political balance and responsibility to the media.

But let’s get back to those “victims.” As the MRC’s Brent Baker has often noted, Congress finds it very difficult to make any real budget cuts—actual cuts, not leaner increases—no matter how slight, because the media love to showcase the “victims” of any proposed cut. The “victim” may or may not be affected in the way the media present the story because Congress always tinkers with the minutia of the federal budget, and future Congresses can undo things. Further, market fluctuations and monetary policy can radically affect the

economy, tax revenue and, in the end, what certain people and special interest groups get in subsidies.

The day after the White House sent its budget to Congress, CNN reporter Anderson Cooper presented a story about how the proposed budget “cuts” could affect how much certain veterans fork over in co-payments for prescription drugs. As Cooper described it: “We’ll begin with who gets hurt in the swinging of the budget ax.” (Remember: That “budget ax” slashing through Congress will sever ... 0.8 percent of the budget! Not exactly the stuff of a Stephen King novel.)

In Cooper’s story, presented with another CNN reporter, Keith Oppenheim, a 79-year-old veteran of World War II was shown using a walker and displaying his eight different medications. The veteran, Jerry Vleck, seemed like a very down-to-earth, level-headed man. And he clearly needed his medications

to get around, as many seniors do. He explained that for one drug, his co-payment is \$7, but under the White House’s budget, his co-payment could go up to \$15. And as Oppenheim reported, that’s a lot of money for a man on a monthly budget of \$2,200.

Yes. But what was not reported is that government intervention in the health care marketplace over the last 35 years has dramatically raised the costs of care and medicine—and it’s getting worse. Also, if Jerry Vleck had been allowed a private Social Security account years ago, he would be far better off than what the government doles over to him.

But the media aren’t talking about that, and related issues. Their liberal bias won’t allow it. And the images of Jerry Vleck are what most Americans see. That’s not reporting. That’s propaganda.

One more example. For the budget issue, ABC’s *Good Morning America* provided coverage from its regular financial expert, Mellody Hobson. She blasted the President for “going after veterans” and for cutting into some education programs. ABC—no surprise—did not disclose that Hobson is a long-time financial supporter of Democratic candidates. She gave \$84,750 to Democratic politicians and PACs in the 2004 election cycle alone.

So much for political balance and responsibility from the major media. And this is just the beginning. They will continue to attack the Administration and conservative ideas throughout the year and through 2008. Their goal is to undo the election mandate of 2004 and stop the victories of the conservative movement. That’s why we will dog them every step of the way and expose their hypocrisy, their disinformation, and their outright deception. We are America’s media watchdog, and we greatly appreciate your generous support.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III,
Founder and President

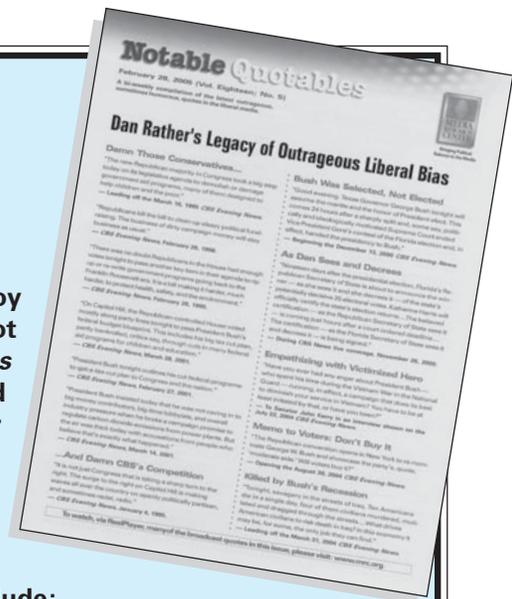


ABC’s financial “expert” Mellody Hobson slammed the President’s budget for “going after veterans” and gutting education. Hobson gave \$84,750 to the Democrats in 2004.

Dan Rather Leaves *CBS Evening News*, Settles in at *CBS 60 Minutes Wednesday*

Dan Rather – anchor of the *CBS Evening News* for 24 years, and poster boy for liberal media bias – resigned his post on March 9. His fans need not worry, though. They can catch him as a correspondent on *60 Minutes Wednesday*, the same CBS program that broadcast the National Guard forgery story – the fiasco that threw Rather into “retirement” and further exemplified the meltdown of the liberal media.

In “honor” of Rather’s departure from the *Evening News*, the MRC compiled more than 50 of his comments over the years in a special edition of *Notable Quotables: Dan Rather’s Legacy of Outrageous Liberal Bias*. We can’t list them all here, but some of the most outrageous quotes include:



Damn Those Conservatives...

“The new Republican majority in Congress took a big step today on its legislative agenda to demolish or damage government aid programs, many of them designed to help children and the poor.” – **Leading off the March 16, 1995 *CBS Evening News*.**

...And Damn CBS’s Competition

“It is not just Congress that is taking a sharp turn to the right. The surge to the right on Capitol Hill is making waves all over the country on openly politically partisan, and sometimes racist, radio.” – ***CBS Evening News*, Jan. 4, 1995.**

Bush Was Selected, Not Elected

“Good evening. Texas Governor George Bush tonight will assume the mantle and the honor of President-elect. This comes 24 hours after a sharply split and, some say, politically and ideologically motivated U.S. Supreme Court ended Vice President Gore’s contest of the Florida election and, in effect, handed the presidency to Bush.” – **Beginning the Dec. 13, 2000 *CBS Evening News*.**

Clinton’s an Honest Man

“I think you can be an honest person and lie about any number of things.” – **Exchange concerning Bill Clinton’s honesty on *FNC’s The O’Reilly Factor*, May 15, 2001.**



When criticized for his liberal bias, Dan Rather ignored the facts and labeled his critics “partisan political operatives.”

Killed by Bush’s Recession

“Tonight, savagery in the streets of Iraq. Ten Americans die in a single day, four of them civilians murdered, mutilated and dragged through the streets.... What drives American civilians to risk death in Iraq? In this economy it may be, for some, the only job they can find.” – **Leading off the March 31, 2004 *CBS Evening News*.**

Happy to Be Communist Slaves

“Despite what many Americans think, most Soviets do not yearn for capitalism or Western-style democracy.” – ***CBS Evening News*, June 17, 1987.**



In early March, Dan Rather laughably claimed that the National Guard forgery story was not politically motivated, that “no one lied,” and that he still thinks the forged memos are authentic.

What, Me Biased?

“I’m all news, all the time. Full power, tall tower. I want to break in when news breaks out. That’s my agenda. Now, respectfully, when you start talking about a liberal agenda and all the, quote, ‘liberal bias’ in the media, I quite frankly, and I say this respectfully but candidly to you, I don’t know what you’re talking about.” – **To Denver radio host Mike Rosen, Nov. 28, 1995.**

For a complete copy of the *Notable Quotables* report (Feb. 28, 2005) and to view the MRC’s exhaustive text and video library “Dan Rather File,” visit the MRC Web site:

www.mediaresearch.org

Robert 'Raise Taxes' Kaiser

President Bush apparently lives in a world that is “simply invented” by himself and filled with “wishful rhetoric.” So said *Washington Post* Assistant Managing Editor Robert G. Kaiser in a Feb. 2 online post-State of the Union “instant analysis.” Kaiser, who asserted that taxes must go up to balance the budget – instead of cutting the budget to match tax revenue – also whined that the U.S. has “the lowest taxes of any industrialized country,” as if tax rates equal to Europe’s socialist-welfare states were something America should emulate.

Kaiser further advised a young questioner that the federal government would not “simply walk away” from its “obligations to pay Social Security benefits.” He added, however, that a future Congress, to pay for Social Security, would “have to revert to what was once a fundamental American commitment to balance the federal budget. And that will mean raising some taxes.”

Chris Matthews: Hardhead?

Hardball host Chris Matthews apparently believes that many of the millions of Iraqis who voted in January’s democratic elections were forced to do so by U.S. troops. Talking to NBC’s Brian Williams after the elections, Matthews said: “Was it that clean? Was there no pushing by American soldiers or coalition forces to make people vote or discourage them from not voting?” Williams dismissed Matthews’ suggestion.

On top of his dunderheaded musings about Iraqi voters, Matthews had wrongly predicted that violence and terror would sweep across Iraq just prior to the elections. Egging-on *New York Times* reporter Elisabeth Bumiller



MSNBC's Chris Matthews, without any evidence, suggested that U.S. troops pushed and prodded Iraqis into voting in their first democratic elections.

two days before the elections, Matthews said: “Is it likely we’re going to see a massive, Tet-style, like we had in Vietnam, explosion of opposition over the next 24 hours? They’re really gonna’ throw out everything they’ve had at these elections to try to bring them down?” Bumiller, reporting from Washington, D.C., said she had “no idea.” And, in the end, the elections were relatively peaceful.

More Sacrifice = More Taxes

National Public Radio’s Nina Totenberg can’t stand the fact that well-to-do people got a tax cut, just like nearly everybody else did under President Bush, and Totenberg wants the so-called rich to sacrifice more. “The President is asking for sacrifice for Iraq, but the only people who are really sacrificing are the men and women who are going over there and their families,” said Totenberg on the Jan. 30 edition of *Inside Washington*. “Because this is a very expensive proposition and he’s not willing to abandon the tax cuts for the top 2 percent of the people in this country. So, the richest people in this country don’t have to sacrifice, just our youngest and bravest.”

Of course, the vast majority of young adult Americans are not in the military and

thus also not sacrificing while the rich are sacrificing to pay most of the taxes. Taxes on America’s rich, in fact, pay for 59 percent of the entire federal budget.

A Self-Righteous Moran

ABC’s Terry Moran pulled a “Gotcha!” question on President Bush at a Jan. 26 press conference. With a self-righteous tone, Moran asked Bush if he would condemn Jordan’s jailing of a man for “slander,” i.e., criticizing the Jordanian government. “I wonder if here and now you will specifically condemn this abuse of human rights by a key American ally, and if you won’t, sir, then what in a practical sense do your fine words mean?” Bush said he was not aware of the case and, thus, couldn’t comment. *The Washington Post* then ran a story saying that Bush was “stumped” by the question.



ABC's Terry Moran went into self-righteous liberal mode and threw a "Gotcha!" question at the President to embarrass him.

The President wasn’t the only one stumped. The man in question had been arrested more than month earlier and neither the *Washington Post*, Moran’s ABC News, nor any other American media outlet had reported on the case. Moran’s play to embarrass the President was sophomoric, but not surprising.

Rooney Detests Reagan

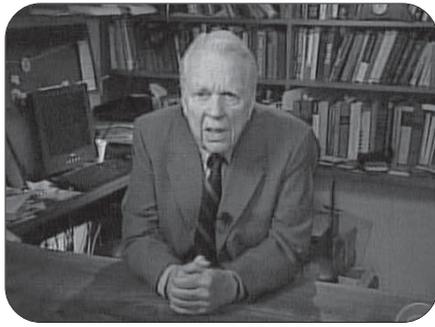
60 Minutes’s Andy Rooney took time to discuss President’s Day by 1) lamenting that America has yet to have a woman president, 2) praising the liberal-welfare-state presidents, and 3) trashing Ronald Reagan and George W.

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CBS's Andy Rooney trashed Presidents Reagan and Bush and, not surprisingly, lauded FDR and Woodrow Wilson as "great."

Bush. Woodrow Wilson, who lied to Americans about entering World War I, was a "great" president, said Rooney, because of the League of Nations. "Franklin Delano Roosevelt wasn't popular with everyone, but he'd be up there with Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln," said Rooney.

"John F. Kennedy could have been on his way to Mount Rushmore, but he was assassinated," Rooney added. However, he went on to say that Ronald Reagan "divided us down the middle the way President Bush has. Half of us loved him; half of us hated him. I liked Jimmy Carter."

Support Our Troops is 'Partisan'?

All Things Considered, a program on the left-wing National Public Radio, found time on Feb. 14 to broadcast a segment by commentator Bob Sommer, in which he denounced the displaying of "Support Our Troops" ribbons, bumper stickers and buttons. "You would think that the sight of a yellow-ribbon magnet on the back of a car, proclaiming 'Support Our Troops,' would give me a lift, but it doesn't," said Sommer. "It just seems so easy to express patriotism by slapping a magnet with a slogan on your car, so glib, so...self-righteous.

"'Support Our Troops.' That sentence is neither a request nor a statement; it's a command. There's a hint of a dare in it that reminds me of a similar sentence: 'Bring it on.' It's vaguely ... Ann Coulterish. Analyzing its rhetoric may be treason."

No Liberals Here!?!

Time's Margaret Carlson and MSNBC's Chris Matthews seriously argued that there aren't really any liberals in the White House press corps.



Time's Margaret Carlson absurdly claimed that there are no liberally biased reporters in the White House press pool.

In a Feb. 28 exchange with the *Weekly Standard's* Stephen Hayes – concerning the conservative reporter Jeff Gannon who was compelled to quit the White House press corps – Matthews said "there are a lot of straight reporters in that room" and dismissed Hayes's belief that the corps was "mostly packed with liberals." Margaret Carlson agreed, saying, "I think they're mostly straight reporters."

Carlson, however, who was unable to see any bias in the mainstream media, found it on cable news as she ridiculed Fox News Channel's slogan by mangling it: "Cable is, 'We don't report, you decide.' It's, it's all, it seems to me, skewed."

MINIBITS

⚡ Inauguration blues: "In a time of war and natural disaster, is it time for a lavish celebration?" — ABC's **Terry Moran**. ⚡ "Do you think the balls and some of the excess are appropriate, or is it forgivable?" — **Peter Jennings** to Rudy Guiliani. ⚡ "I think in the end this President will raise taxes before his term is out [T]he government has just got to find some money to finance these programs." — CBS's **Bob Schieffer**. ⚡ "The President is proposing today the tightest budget of his presidency and it's gonna' slash spending across, across a wide swath of the government." — NBC's **Norah O'Donnell** on the proposed 0.8% cut in the federal budget. ⚡ Howard Dean "is actually a staunch centrist, pragmatic, reform Democrat who is pro-gun rights, comes from a rural state, and he's a deficit hawk." — NPR's **Mara Liasson**. ⚡ "As an Iraqi politician said to me, 'There are currently two Grand Ayatollahs running Iraq: Sistani and Bush. Most of us feel that Sistani is the more rational.'" — *Newsweek's* **Fareed Zakaria**.



NBC's Norah O'Donnell said the President's 0.8% spending reduction would "slash spending" across government.

By **Scott Hogenson**
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



The Global Appeal of CNSNews

One thing we love to do is keep track of the innumerable citations of CNSNews.com material by other media outlets. Not only does it let you know that we're doing our job of fighting liberal media bias and covering news largely ignored by the establishment media, it also demonstrates the vast reach of the research and reporting you make possible.

The staff swells with pride every time our news is used by Rush Limbaugh, the *Wall Street Journal*, Fox News or any of a hundred other well known news and broadcast operations. Not only do these and other media outlets reach tens of millions of people every day, they're the best indicator of the caliber of the news we publish.

But there are many more organizations that use CNSNews.com every single day and I take just as much pride in those citations as any other. In a way, these less heralded uses of CNSNews.com, the Internet newswire of the Media Research Center, do much more to illustrate the broad appeal of our work.

One thing our daily hit report shows us is a list of 'referrals' – websites that send readers to CNSNews.com via hyperlinks. I spent a little time surfing these referrals the other day and the results were pretty interesting.

Sure, our news is used by well known public policy and advocacy groups, big Internet sites and nationally syndicated broadcasters, sending tens of thousands of new readers to us every day. But there's a lot more information buried in the data.

Among the hundreds of CNSNews.com Headline News Service users is an organization called Go Small Biz, a firm run by former NFL quarterback Fran Tarkenton that provides a variety of tax, accounting, sales, technology, and other advice to small business owners. Their members read CNSNews.com right on the home page.

A growing number of savvy website developers have also learned about our Headline News Service, and incorporate CNSNews.com into websites built for their clients. Other businesses like East Texas Cable and Iowa Rural Wireless in Oelwein, Iowa provide CNSNews.com to their customers.

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Our readership isn't limited to domestic media. Hiiraan Online, which provides news and information on Somalia, avails itself of CNSNews.com material along with Gujarat Today, the online newspaper of Gujarat, India. We're also the news service for an Asian Internet gateway called Chili Powder, a real estate brokerage in the Philippines, and a Canadian website catering to the interests of Aboriginal Indians. There are a couple other websites written in languages I cannot understand or navigate, but I can read CNSNews.com there.

The fact that luminaries like Sean Hannity, Brit Hume, and John Fund read and use CNSNews.com is impressive, but I find it equally impressive to know that our product is reaching people in places and in ways we never conceived of just a few short years ago.

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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:



On *Hannity & Colmes*, Brent Bozell called on liberal reporters to present evidence that U.S. troops in Iraq are targeting journalists.



On Fox, Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham explained how PBS has used some of its programming to promote homosexuality.



Brent Bozell discussed ending public funding of PBS on MSNBC's *Scarborough Country*.

Television

- MSNBC, *Scarborough Country*, Feb. 17
- FNC, *Hannity & Colmes*, Feb. 8
- FNC, *Fox & Friends*, Feb. 8

Radio

Bob Barr on *Radio America*, Feb. 17

Appearances by MRC Research Director Rich Noyes

- News You Can Use w/ Jane Silk*, Mar. 3
- KDKA – Pittsburgh, PA, Feb. 28
- Linda Chavez Show*, nationally syndicated, Feb. 17
- WGL – Ft. Wayne, IN, Feb. 16
- KGAB – Cheyenne, Feb. 9
- KTSA – San Antonio, TX, Feb. 7
- WGL – Ft. Wayne, IN, Feb. 6
- WWBA – Tampa Bay, FL, Feb. 2
- WNTA – Rockford, IL, Feb. 1
- WMUZ – Detroit, MI, Feb. 1

Appearances by MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham

- J.D. Balert Show*, nationally syndicated, Feb. 28
- Newsbeat w/Blanquita Cullum*, Feb. 21
- American Family Radio, nationally syndicated, Feb. 24
- KTSA – San Antonio, TX, Feb. 24
- KFAX – Fremont, CA, Feb. 24
- NRA News – Feb. 25
- WNTA – Rockford, IL, Feb. 28
- WRVA – Richmond, VA, Feb. 18

- Right Balance, nationally syndicated, Feb. 17
- WSAU – Wausau, WI, Feb. 10
- WFLA – Tampa Bay, FL, Feb. 10
- WBAL – Baltimore, MD, Feb. 8
- WLW – Cincinnati, OH, Feb. 4
- WIBA – Madison, WI, Feb. 2

Appearances by Free Market Project Director Dan Gainer

- WWMC – Feb. 18
- Battleline with Alan Nathan*, Feb. 18
- KMED – Medford, OR, Feb. 17
- WBT – Charlotte, NC, Feb. 17
- Newsbeat w/Blanquita Cullum* – nationally syndicated, Feb. 16

Appearances by CNSNews Executive Editor Scott Hogenson

- Greg Allen Show* – nationally syndicated, Feb. 16, 25
- Janet Parshall's America* – nationally syndicated, Feb. 22
- Newsbeat w/Blanquita Cullum* – nationally syndicated, Feb. 18
- KVI – Seattle, WA, Feb. 18
- Alan Nathan Show*, nationally syndicated, Feb. 17
- G. Gordon Liddy Show*, Feb. 1, 7, 16
- KDUX – Salt Lake City, UT, Feb. 15
- NRA Radio – Feb. 3
- WWNN – Boca Raton, FL, Feb. 3
- Janet Folger Show* – Feb. 2

Print

- Philadelphia Inquirer*, Feb. 7, 14, 28
- Los Angeles Times*, Feb. 27

- Investor's Business Daily*, Feb. 10, 14, 24
- Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, Feb. 21
- Toronto Star*, Feb. 20
- International Herald Tribune*, Feb. 18
- New York Times*, Feb. 17
- Washington Times*, Feb. 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 17
- Human Events*, Feb. 17
- Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Feb. 17
- Washington Post*, Feb. 10

Internet

- Power Line blog, March 1
- Philly.com, Feb. 28
- DetNews.com, Feb. 26
- MichNews.com, Feb. 26
- Agape Press, Feb. 25
- Townhall.com, Feb. 17
- Washington Dispatch, Feb. 18,
- National Review Online, Feb. 3, 16
- CNSNews.com, Feb. 15
- The Ledger, Feb. 17
- Toronto Free Press, Feb. 15
- Mediaweek.com, Feb. 14
- FAIR, Feb. 14
- JAWA Report, Feb. 13
- Family News in Focus, Feb. 10
- Conservative Voice, Feb. 11
- Newshounds, Feb. 8
- World Net Daily, Feb. 4

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