

How Intensely Does the Left-Wing Media Hate Trump?

I cannot prove this, but the caller to my radio show seemed totally credible. If what he said is true, then the animosity towards Trump in left-wing circles is even more extreme than some of us would have believed. And that is saying a lot.

The caller, named Rob, from Tampa, Florida, said he had previously worked at an NBC News affiliate up north. (He didn't want to give further details so as to be able to speak with total freedom.)

As a committed Christian, he claims he was not just in the minority. He was alone, with all the other newsroom staffers, totaling at least 30 people, identifying as either atheists or agnostics. And, he said, "Every single one of them was a hardcore leftist."

Rob said his last year working at the station was the first year of Trump's presidency, so 2017. During that time, a story about Trump was run for a few days, a story that "everyone knew was a lie."

So he reached out to the assignment editor and said, "What you're putting on TV is a lie. Why are you doing it?"

According to Rob, "The guy looked at me stone cold and said, 'It's not my duty or my obligation to tell the truth. It's my obligation to get Donald Trump out of the White House.'"

Again, I can't verify this story, although, to repeat, Rob did seem credible, and he was quite aware of Trump's shortcomings.

But what I can say is this: There is no question that the TV media leans overwhelmingly to the left, and there is no question that the leftist media is overtly and

unapologetically hostile to Trump.

Looking first at the media's anti-Trump reporting, in October, 2017, Pew Research noted that, "The Pew Research Center, in a content analysis of the early days of the Trump presidency, found that 62% of the coverage was negative and only 5% was positive.

"In contrast, President Barack Obama's coverage in early 2009 was 42% positive and 20% negative, the study said."

So, the coverage of Trump was more than 12 to 1 negative; the coverage of Obama was more than 2 to 1 positive.

One year later, in October 2018, the Media Research Center stated, "Over the summer, the broadcast networks have continued to pound Donald Trump and his team with the most hostile coverage of a president in TV news history—92% negative versus just 8% positive."

By January 2020, the figure had risen to 93% negative.

Certainly, Trump's provocation of the media plays into these numbers. But whatever the cause, the anti-Trump sentiments have only intensified, and in increasingly unvarnished fashion at that.

As for the political leanings of the media, Nate Silver wrote in 2017 that, "As of 2013, only 7% of [journalists] identified as Republicans." (This was down from 25.7% in 1971; strikingly, as of 2013, half identified as independent.)

And, a 2017 article in Politico points out, "The national media really does work in a bubble, something that wasn't true as recently as 2008. And the bubble is growing more extreme. Concentrated heavily along the coasts, the bubble is both geographic and political. If you're a working journalist, odds aren't just that you work in a pro-Clinton county—odds are that you reside in one of the nation's most pro-Clinton

counties" (their emphasis).

With good reason, the article, written by Jack Shafer and Tucker Doherty, carried this title and subtitle: "The Media Bubble Is Worse Than You Think. We crunched the data on where journalists work and how fast it's changing. The results should worry you."

And then, this striking observation: "The people who report, edit, produce and publish news can't help being affected—deeply affected—by the environment around them. Former *New York Times* public editor Daniel Okrent got at this when he analyzed the decidedly liberal bent of his newspaper's staff in a 2004 column that rewards rereading today. The 'heart, mind and habits' of *The Times*, he wrote, cannot be divorced from the ethos of the cosmopolitan city where it is produced. On such subjects as abortion, gay rights, gun control and environmental regulation, the *Times*' news reporting is a pretty good reflection of its region's dominant predisposition."

Okrent's analysis was shockingly candid (and note that it was published by *The Times* itself). To the headline's question, "Is The New York Times a Liberal Newspaper?", he responded, "Of course it is." (Again, this was back in 2004.)

With regard to "the social issues: gay rights, gun control, abortion and environmental regulation, among others," Okrent was equally blunt: "if you think *The Times* plays it down the middle on any of them, you've been reading the paper with your eyes closed."

As for "the editorial page," he described it as "so thoroughly saturated in liberal theology that when it occasionally strays from that point of view, the shocked yelps from the left overwhelm even the ceaseless rumble of disapproval from the right."

Although I cannot get my hands on the research right now, more

than one decade ago, I read with interest a survey indicating how news anchors across the nation held to radically leftist views on abortion and other social issues. I would imagine those numbers would look similar today.

It is true that an academic article published by *Science Advances* in April, 2020 argued that, "Although a dominant majority of journalists identify as liberals/Democrats and many Americans and public officials frequently decry supposedly high and increasing levels of media bias, little compelling evidence exists as to (i) the ideological or partisan leanings of the many journalists who fail to answer surveys and/or identify as independents and (ii) whether journalists' political leanings bleed into the choice of which stories to cover that Americans ultimately consume."

Rob, and a host of other observers, including me, would beg to differ.