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Free Market Project - Auditing the media's coverage of the free enterprise system

Issue 1 • August 17, 2005

In this issue: Herman Cain on Media • Bad News in Good Times • Good, Bad & Ugly

Links: Taxes • Regulation • Health • Global Warming • Events

New from the Free Market Project

[Herman Cain: The Media Say The Economy Is Horrible, So It Must Be True](#)

The Free Market Project's national chairman says the media must think we're stupid. With all the good things happening in the economy, why else would journalists keep telling us things are so dire?

[Networks Paint Bush Economy As Bleak, No Matter What The Facts Really Say](#)

A new Free Market Project analysis of the three broadcast networks' evening news shows since the 2005 inauguration proved that negative economic news gets far more air time than positive news. Even when good news made it to viewers, journalists undermined it with bad news 45 percent of the time. Instead of expanding on good news about jobs, low unemployment and economic growth, reporters sought out those who were getting laid off or paying more for gas to show that the economy was still "dicey" and "struggling."

[The Good, The Bad & The Ugly](#)

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly will be a regular feature of the Balance Sheet – tracking the best and worst media coverage of business and economics. Readers are invited to submit suggestions or news tips to Director [Dan Gainor](#)

This week: Decent economics, ignoring a climate change treaty and a bizarre view of the cause for African starvation.

Also from FMP:

[Pain at the Pump](#)

[Networks Ignore U.S. Agreement on Global Warming](#)

[Social Security's Retirement Date Long Passed](#)

Research, News & Commentary

Taxes

Research: The Milken Institute released its 2005 Cost of Doing Business Index, with Hawaii, New York and Massachusetts topping the list of most expensive states for business.

News: Stateline.org has a roundup of what's happened with budgets and taxes across the states in the past year.

Regulation

Commentary: FMP Adviser Bruce Bartlett, of the National Center for Policy Analysis, explains how Sarbanes-Oxley's regulation of businesses causes a drag on the stock market.

Research: A new study from the Institute for Trade, Standards and Sustainable Development, Inc., warns how the costs of European regulation are impacting American businesses. The European "better-safe-than-sorry" approach to rule-making is threatening the American free enterprise system, according to an analysis by **Lawrence Kogan**.

Health

Commentary: AEI's James K. Glassman says the way out of Africa's AIDS tragedy is that "wealth makes health."

Global Warming

Research: S. Fred Singer, president of the Science & Environmental Policy Project, explains why new analysis of satellite and weather balloon temperature data doesn't settle the global warming debate at all.

Upcoming Events

Neal Boortz and John Linder: "The FairTax Book" Book Signings
Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Barrett Parkway, Cobb County, Ga.
Aug. 18, 7:00 p.m.

Chapter 11 Bookstore, Conyers, Ga.
Aug. 20, 2:00 p.m.

Science Writers Workshop
Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.
Aug. 31, 12:30 p.m.

Medicaid and the Long-Term Care Crisis: Who Should Pay?
Cato Institute

Sept. 7, 12:00 p.m.

[Does Private Education Work for the Poor?](#)

Cato Institute

Sept. 8, 12:30 p.m.

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