

Commentary

Identifying “Fake News” Separates Fact from Opinion

By Perry Nouis

StarTribune Editorial writer John Rash used today’s Opinion Page column to discuss the findings in a report that the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) recently released. In typical StarTribune practice, Mr. Rash chooses to focus on the negative aspects of what the report had to say about President Trump and his Administration, namely the fears of using terms such as “Fake News” and “enemy of the people” in his interactions with the press.

Rash then downplays the report’s negative findings regarding the detrimental activities of the media. Near the end of Mr. Rash’s lengthy diatribe against the President he then says, “The news media is imperfect, of course.” The CPJ report states, “changes in the norms of mainstream news media have contributed to the difficulty that audiences can have in separating fact from opinion.” Isn’t that the main problem?

The news media today doesn’t seem to be able to separate facts from opinion and too often presents “Analysis” and news stories that are riddled with speculation, opinions of the reporters, and too often agenda driven by political operatives posing as journalists. There are plenty examples of these practices practically every day in the StarTribune.

Mr. Trump very rarely lashes out unprovoked against political opponents. He is, however, a tremendous counterpuncher. You hit him he’s going to hit you back twice as hard. Unlike past Republican Presidents he doesn’t just take it. This, of course, infuriates those on the left who aren’t use to dealing with a Republican who strikes back. This is one of the President’s characteristics that endears him to his supporters. They see a fighter. Someone who is willing to get in the trenches and slug it out with those trying to bring him down.

When studies have shown that over 90% of the news media’s coverage of the Trump Administration has been negative during a three-year period, prior to the past month, that included record economic gains, low unemployment, and new trade deals, how can that be? Ninety-plus percent negative coverage when there was so much positive to report.

There has been practically zero balanced coverage of this President. When President Trump calls a news story “Fake News” he’s simply helping the public separate fact from opinion.

President Trump hasn’t destroyed the credibility of the press. The press has done that on its own.

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