

Liberal group: Limbaugh is leading 'reign of error'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A liberal media watchdog group issued a report Tuesday contending that conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh's broadcasts and publications amount to a "reign of error."

Limbaugh said last week that he functions as his own "truth detector."

But Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting compiled dozens of his statements and writings it says are inaccurate.

"From AIDS to ozone, from Whitewater to the Bible, Limbaugh seems to be able to dissemble and disinform on virtually any subject," the group said.

Limbaugh's talk shows are broadcast on 625 radio stations and 250 TV stations nationwide. He has written two books and publishes a newsletter.

Limbaugh called the report "just one in a long line of attacks that have willing accomplices in the media." He did not, however, deny saying or writing the statements attributed to him, nor did he defend their accuracy.

Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting cited official sources in many cases to rebut Limbaugh.



LIMBAUGH

REBUTTAL

Limbaugh says

- "Banks take risks in issuing student loans and they are entitled to the profits."
- "If you have any doubts about the status of American health care, just compare it with that in other industrialized nations."
- "Do you know we have more acreage of forest land in the United States today than we did at the time the Constitution was written?"
- "You know the Clintons send Chelsea to Sidwell Friends private school ... a recent eighth-grade class assignment required students to write a paper on 'Why I feel guilty being white.' My source for this story is CBS News."
- "You better pay attention to the 1993 budget deal because there is an increase in beer and alcohol taxes."
- "Those gas lines were a direct result of the foreign oil powers playing tough with us because they didn't fear Jimmy Carter."

FAIR says

- "Banks take no risks in issuing student loans, which are federally insured."
- "The United States ranks 16th in life expectancy and 21st in infant survival among industrialized nations, according to the CIA's 1993 World Fact Book."
- "In what are now the 50 U.S. states, there were 850 million acres of forest land in the late 1700s vs. only 730 million today."
- CBS denied running such a story and a Sidwell spokesman said it never happened.
- "There were no increases in beer and alcohol taxes in the 1993 budget."
- "... Gas lines occurred in ... the administration of Limbaugh hero Richard Nixon."