



## Daily Caller: While at Politico, Ben Smith Withheld Information About Media Matters

Posted by [P.J. Salvatore](#) Feb 14th 2012 at 6:46 am in [Media Matters](#), [Politico](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

*[W]hile [Politico's Dylan] Byers' story on Monday was titled "Daily Caller publishes old MMFA memo," there was much in the memo Smith didn't touch in his story.*

### Daily Caller:

Smith made no mention of Media Matters targeting organizations other than Fox News, such as the libertarian Cato Institute and the conservative Heritage Foundation. Nor does he reveal that, according to the memo, Media Matters was intent on researching Republican political figures like Republican former U.S. Senate candidate [Carly Fiorina](#) and Republican Virginia Rep. [Eric Cantor](#), and the prominent libertarian political donor Peter Thiel.

"An opposition research team will serve to hold Thiel and others like him accountable," the memo states. Smith made no mention of such efforts in his story.

He also failed to disclose Media Matters' interest in marginalizing political news websites including Newsmax and Andrew Breitbart's Big Government, saying only that the organization had narrowed its focus to "Fox and a handful of conservative websites."

It's not clear why Smith, who recently left Politico for the website BuzzFeed, didn't include more specifics from the lengthy document in his March 2011 story if he had the full copy.