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Module 9 CNA

On Monday, October 26th, Amy Coney Barret was confirmed to the United States Supreme Court, as reported on by NPR, Buzzfeed News, CBS News, and so many other sources. There’s an interesting take-away looking just at the titles that’s immediately obvious: while CBS and NPR, both considered alongside Buzzfeed to generally be left-of-center sources (though to varying degrees), Buzzfeed is the only one that immediately mentions that it was a primarily-Republican-led initiative to put Barret on the Supreme Court in their title of the confirmation article. Left out of all three titles, however, and mentioned almost immediately in CBS and NPR’s reporting, is the fact that this was a surprisingly close, with even one Republican changing sides during the confirmation with a final vote of Barrett having 52 votes to confirm her and 48 against.

It’s interesting how much the articles diverge, however, on information they cover: while many of the papers I’ve looked at in the past tend to contain mostly similar content at the start, diverging early on, these three articles diverge almost immediately. NPR mentions how this conclusion was foregone, Buzzfeed mentions how her ceremony to be sworn in was likely another superspreader event like the White House nomination being a similar event, and CBS mentions how she is seen as a threat to the fate of things like Roe v. Wade and the Affordable Care Act – though Buzzfeed mentions the ACA, it’s only to say that the Supreme Court was going to be looking at it soon anyways.

What is also quite interesting to look at is how each source brings up the fact that just four years ago, the Republican senators in office were adamantly against the idea of even thinking about appointing a new Supreme Court Justice, with NPR directly quoting Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Buzzfeed not touching too much on the topic, and CBS going a bit more in depth than just including Chuck Schumer’s quote to include the background as to what had happened leading up to the 2016 election as well as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell rebuttal to Chuck Schumer’s comment being included.

There’s a lot of fear among queer folks as to what this confirmation might mean for LGBT rights, which is something that both Buzzfeed and CBS touch on – in fact, while Buzzfeed and CBS both include mentions of all the fears that Democrat and other left-wing voters might have about what Amy Coney Barrett might reject, NPR mentions none of the potential things that voters are afraid the new Supreme Court justice might overturn. For NPR, a source that, in my experience, seems to usually go in-depth on the topics it covers, this feels like a weird omission from them, and it just makes me wonder: why doesn’t NPR mention it. It’s interesting to look into, as well, how the supposedly-mixed-factuality Buzzfeed News carries a lot of factual information within it; is this how readers of literal fake news on both sides of the aisles get mislead by sources – a factual article leading to readers thinking all articles on that site will carry the same level of factuality? The hypocrisy of this administration, especially after 2016, continues to shock me, and it really makes me wonder: how are voters feeling about this flip-flopping from the Republican party?

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