

## **AP's Credibility Crisis: The Curious Case of the Vanishing JD Vance Fact-Check**

In a startling turn of events that has left conservatives questioning the integrity of mainstream media, the Associated Press (AP) recently published and then hastily removed a fact-check article addressing baseless rumors about Republican vice-presidential nominee JD Vance. This incident has ignited a firestorm of criticism and raised serious questions about the AP's editorial process and potential bias against conservative figures.

The now-deleted article, which aimed to debunk false claims about Vance's bestselling memoir "Hillbilly Elegy," was pulled from the AP's website with a vague explanation that it "did not go through our standard editing process." This swift retraction, however, has only served to fuel speculation and distrust among right-leaning observers.

The absurdity of the rumors becomes even more apparent when examining the actual mentions of "couch" in Vance's memoir "Hillbilly Elegy." A thorough review of the book reveals that the word appears in entirely ordinary, non-sexual contexts. For instance, on page 17, Vance describes his Mamaw using the couch in her "covert war" against Papaw by cutting his pants while he slept there. Other mentions include characters sitting on couches during arguments (page 26), watching TV (pages 28 and 30), having conversations (page 43), and even a neighbor being found unconscious on a couch due to drug use (page 47). These mundane references stand in stark contrast to the salacious claims circulating on social media. The fact that the AP felt compelled to fact-check such outlandish rumors, given the book's actual content, further underscores the media's questionable judgment in this situation and their apparent eagerness to entertain baseless allegations against conservative figures.

Many conservatives view this incident as yet another example of the mainstream media's rush to judgment when it comes to Republican politicians. The fact that the AP felt compelled to fact-check such an outlandish claim in the first place raises eyebrows. Why give credence to absurd rumors by dignifying them with a formal fact-check, only to then remove the article entirely?

The timing of this debacle is particularly troubling, coming just as Vance steps into the national spotlight as Trump's running mate. It's hard not to see this as an attempt to embarrass Vance and, by extension, the Republican ticket. The AP's actions have inadvertently amplified the very rumors they sought to dispel, causing unnecessary distraction from Vance's message and qualifications.

Furthermore, this incident highlights the double standard often applied to conservative figures in the media. One can't help but wonder if a Democratic politician would have been subjected to the same treatment. The AP's handling of this situation seems to betray a knee-jerk reaction to attack or discredit conservative voices, even when the claims are patently absurd.

The removal of the article also raises questions about the AP's fact-checking process. If the piece didn't go through their "standard editing process," as claimed, how did it get published in the first place? This lapse in judgment casts doubt on the reliability of other AP fact-checks and news stories, particularly those concerning conservative politicians and issues.

Conservatives have long criticized the mainstream media for what they perceive as biased coverage, and this incident only serves to reinforce those concerns. It's a stark reminder of the need for vigilance and skepticism when consuming news, especially from sources that claim to be impartial.

As JD Vance continues his campaign as the Republican vice-presidential nominee, this episode serves as a rallying cry for his supporters. It underscores the uphill battle conservative candidates face in dealing with a media landscape that seems all too eager to pounce on any opportunity to discredit them, regardless of the veracity of the claims.

In conclusion, the AP's mishandling of this situation is a troubling indication of the state of modern journalism. It highlights the need for more rigorous editorial standards, particularly when it comes to fact-checking and reporting on political figures. As we move closer to the 2024 election, voters must remain vigilant and seek out diverse sources of information to cut through the noise and bias that all too often cloud our political discourse.

For those interested in examining this incident further, the original AP fact-check article, which has since been removed, can be found archived at <https://archive.ph/hZ41j>. The current AP page, which now displays a message stating that the story has been removed, can be accessed at <https://apnews.com/article/038130326229>. These links serve as a stark reminder of the transient nature of online journalism and the importance of preserving information, especially when it pertains to matters of public interest and political discourse. We encourage readers to review these sources and draw their own conclusions about the AP's handling of this situation.