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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**
IS THE PRESS
THE ENEMY?
KINDA' NOT
REALLY ... SORTA'!

By Stephen L. Bakke  February 22, 2017



Here's what provoked me:

Hey SB! Today's editorial in the Minneapolis StarTribune gave a detailed list of reasons the press is important to shine a light on dictators and rascals like Trump. While this is extremely self-serving, they aren't totally wrong! Don't you think you should take this on and try to clarify some things? – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go-to guy."

Hello Stefano, it's been a time since you raised your opinionated voice in my direction. I suppose you're right, so I'm going to try to make a couple points about this editorial – well, maybe ... sorta'.

Here's my response:

Is the Press the Enemy? Kinda' Not Really ... Sorta'!

The editorial on February 22 made some very valid points regarding the value of an independent press to freely express themselves for the purpose of shining a light on the truth. Powerful political leadership can breed mischief, to be sure. The editorial's points are valid, but the comments are also very self-serving.

In my opinion, these are the main points of the editorial:

- Lying becomes easier if there is no challenge to those in power.
- The powerful don't like being watched.
- The U.S. media needs no permission to do its job.
- Journalists serve us by shining light on the truth.

Just as power breeds mischief in political leadership, that can also happen in a group as powerful as is the national media. I submit:

- Trump has every right to push back against the media.
- An effective independent press requires they, also, be held accountable.
- It's clear the media doesn't like being watched or criticized.
- Without someone holding them accountable, the press is made up of human beings who are far too inclined to make personal judgements as to how to report something.

I do believe that to some journalists, "the truth," onto which they "shine their light," is individually determined. What they should do is shine their light on the facts and dispense with trying to subjectively decide what the "truth" is.