

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**  
**"ANTI-REPUBLICAN"**  
**SHOULD**  
**STICK TO**  
**THE FACTS!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  February 13, 2015



*Here's what provoked me:*

*A letter writer provided a litany of sarcastic, and inaccurate instructions to Republicans. It covered several of the untruths and half-truths being constantly thrown in front of the public. Fortunately, these are often so absurd they are slowly being seen for what they are by most citizens.*

*Here's my response:*

**"Anti-Republican" Should Stick to the Facts!**

In "Tips for Republican leaders" (2-12), Jean Metcalfe Richtfort exits reality for demagoguery in order to ridicule political opponents. The presentation was so absurd, it may backfire. My responses:

- No Republican wants to cut Social Security benefits. But the reality of an impending financial crisis requires some sort of restructuring.
- Regarding anti-abortion legislation, America wants to have an updated discussion on "the definition of life."
- Iran is a potential existential threat to the U.S., and Republicans recognize that.
- Opposition to the ACA is valid because the number of uninsured is not likely to be reduced by the ACA, and TOTAL societal costs of ACA far outstrip predictions.
- The top 20% of earning individuals now pay approximately 86% of federal taxes collected. What percentage would the writer have them pay?
- Needed infrastructure spending has been squeezed out by wasteful programs and interest on debt, not heartless Republicans. The dire financial situation must be addressed.
- A potential physician shortage for providing Medicare benefits has many causes including ACA actually taking funding away from Medicare's coffers, and the below-market rates paid physicians.
- The comment about "flag lapel pins" and "car magnets" is too absurd for comment!