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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**EXECUTIVE ORDERS:
A LITTLE
FACT-CHECKING
IS IN ORDER!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  January 15, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

A writer thinks that the complaints about Obama's Executive Orders is refuted by the fact that he hasn't issued an unusually high number of them. But that's not the point! It's not the number of Executive Orders one should be concerned with, but the nature of those orders.

Here's my response:

Executive Orders: A Little Fact-Checking is in Order!

In taking exception to an earlier letter, Brooks Harrison (Dysfunctional government, 1-12-15) points to conservative "misinformation," and jumps to a conclusion that a lot of the accusations of "abuse of power" have to do with President Obama's Executive Orders and similar declarations. Harrison proceeds to "put the Executive Orders business into perspective" by pointing out that Obama hasn't issued an unusually high number of orders compared with other recent presidents. Some fact-checking on executive orders seems to be in order!

It's not the number of Executive Orders one should be concerned with, but the nature of those orders. There are good ones and bad ones: The emancipation proclamation was an executive order, as was Truman's integration of the armed forces and Eisenhower's desegregation of public schools. On the other hand, FDR's regrettable assignment of Japanese Americans to internment camps was an executive order.

The problem with so many of Obama's orders, is that they appear to be in opposition to congressional intent, not just powers he has already been granted by the Constitution, or specific legislation which he must implement. The Supreme Court ruled that executive orders are invalid if they make law rather than clarify existing legislation.