

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at steve_bakke@comcast.net !
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

TODAY'S "QUICK HIT": UNHELPFUL HYPERBOLE AND FALSE EQUIVALENCIES!



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 10, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

Hey SB! Far too often those arguing their opinions actually do harm to their cause by introducing exaggeration, hyperbole, and false equivalencies. Sometimes even outright scams and falsehoods are offered and embraced. Sometimes we gravitate to reports or arguments that are too "delicious" to ignore. In my experience, if a clever item appears wonderfully "delicious," we probably should ignore it and move on to more accurate and useful information. On one day, in one newspaper, on consecutive pages, there appeared too many false equivalencies for me to ignore. I'd like you to take a look at the items I'm talking about, and tell me what you think. – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit.

Here's my response:

Unhelpful Hyperbole and False Equivalencies!

Those arguing an opinion sometimes harm their cause by introducing exaggeration, hyperbole, and false equivalencies. Often the issue is worthy of discussion, but such tactics are unhelpful in advancing an otherwise important debate. I believe such was the case in two letters and a commentary on September 9.

Senator Grassley was compared to ISIL while the writer, Dr. Robert F. Ashman, declared the Senator "has done more damage to the U.S. government than any foreign power could have done." He was referring to Grassley's controversial tactics in preventing an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Governor Branstad was accused of "genocidal and ecocidal madness" for his support of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The writer, Taina Amayi, declared that the Governor chose "profits over the very lives of people in Iowa."

Then came Rekha Basu's commentary in which she quoted a sex therapist's analysis of Anthony Weiner. Ms. Basu's "expert" sex therapist used Donald Trump's "size of hands" debate to create an analogy likening Trump to Anthony Weiner – something about craving "affirmation for their manhood."

The pipeline, Supreme Court nomination, and presidential candidates' "fitness to serve" are all worthy subjects for debate. Such silliness and false equivalencies only stifle intelligent discussion.