

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
CONTEMPT
BREEDS
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By Stephen L. Bakke  December 19, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

A well-known local columnist and blogger managed to get a major article published in the Minneapolis paper. Its divisive nature got a little under my skin so I decided to try to get my own rebuttal published. We shall see what happens!

Here's my response:

Contempt Breeds Contempt!

Brian Lambert's commentary is always controversial. His 12/16 Counterpoint, "From the President we expect miracles?" was reacting to D.J. Tice's 12/13 article, "A president with a plan-that he can't sell." Lambert's "rant" was about conservatives expecting too much from Obama. I assume he is implying that Obama is thereby set up for failure – i.e. the "keep us safe" campaign was invented to undermine him.

My reactions:

- I applaud Lambert's realistic observation, "incidents like that in San Bernardino will always be beyond the pre-emptive abilities of authorities in an open society."
- Anybody who would make Tice one of the "conservative commentariat" doesn't carefully discern Tice's usually careful writing.
- Lambert waists his readers' energy with complex nuance which is further complicated by a bunch of big words: erudite, fulminations commentariat, etc.
- His disdain and contempt for conservatives is obvious. It's demonstrated by using words and phrases like: "Second Amendment zealots," "conservative commentariat," "fanaticism," "reactionary," "shock and awe" strategy, "fired the cauldron," "fulminations," "racial hysteria," "reckless demagoguery," and "ill-informed demonizing."

I consider Tice's real message to be one Lambert should listen more carefully to – i.e. Obama's efforts to rally the nation are "strangely weak.....lack of passion, anger or energy..." Tice points out that Obama's "containment strategy means we won't find out, or enjoy the boost in morale forceful action might bring." Obama "seems able only to patronize and scold a worried people."



Satire and sarcasm is fine – but contrived, invalid anecdotes are unhelpful in our divided and appropriately worried country! Contempt breeds contempt!