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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**  
**WHO IS SPOUTING  
"THE SAME OLD  
PLATITUDES  
OVER AND OVER  
AND OVER AGAIN"?**



By Stephen L. Bakke  July 18, 2016

*Here's what provoked me:*

*There is incessant rhetorical pounding about racial disparities in our criminal justice system which manifests itself in the epidemic of police shooting black men. If you say something often enough, I guess people will eventually start to believe it. In the midst of this controversy, there was a new study published by a Harvard University professor on that exact subject, and the results were quite surprising! One can only speculate that this has been mostly ignored in the mainstream media and progressive political leadership. It's a shame!*

*Here's my response:*

**Who Is Spouting "the Same Old Platitudes Over and Over and Over Again"?**

A writer on July 17 bemoaned our collective inability to come to terms with the history of violence and racism in the U.S. – we just “spout the same old platitudes over and over and over again” about “our greatness and goodness.”

I ask, “Who is really doing the spouting off?” The President bemoaned “racial disparities” in the criminal justice system which incite violence. Governor Dayton prematurely declared that the shooting of a black suspect wouldn't have occurred had the suspect been white. Representative Ellison foolishly made things worse by commending Governor Dayton. Other writers placed the blame for recent violence on white racism, and because “law enforcement officers nationwide are losing interest in ‘protecting and serving’ the citizens.”

On July 14, Richard Greelis showed common sense in his controversial article “We can't avoid talking about bad behavior.” He asked: “Do police really treat young black men differently than other young men, and if so, why?”

“It is the most surprising result of my career.” So exclaimed Harvard professor and lead researcher Roland Fryer Jr., a black man. He summarized: “On the most extreme use of force – officer-involved shootings – we find no racial differences in either the raw data or when contextual factors are taken into account.” This is an extensive study titled “Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force.”

Why haven't we been introduced to this new study coming out of Harvard University? Why are we so resistant to making sure we find the truth?