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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**  
**MISTAKES BECOME  
INTEGRITY ISSUES;  
INTEGRITY ISSUES  
MAGICALLY BECOME  
MISTAKES!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  February 26, 2016



*Here's what provoked me:*

*A Guest Opinion took mighty big shots at the integrity and character of George Bush (the Younger). It's clear from my response what the issue is, so no need to expand this explanation.*

*Here's my response:*

**Mistakes Become Integrity Issues; Integrity Issues Magically Become Mistakes!**

The 2/26 Guest Opinion confuses integrity with other things ("The integrity of George W. Bush" by Brad Turek).

There certainly were mistakes made by Bush's administration in addressing pre-9/11 "marginally actionable" intelligence. And intelligence preceding the Iraq war was inadequate – but not fabricated. In fact, there is clear evidence that WMD had existed in Iraq after discovering materials necessary for nuclear weapon development – but it was a mistake by Bush and others to declare that weapons could still be found.

Additionally, there's no question of integrity or character when someone earns a lot of money, nor when difficult decisions are made choosing between military force or diplomacy. We've since learned the hard way that with radical Islamic terrorists, persistent force works, but diplomacy only buys, or wastes, time.

Turek is forgetting about the Bush Administration's futile attempt to have the Democratic Congress "rein in" mortgage lending practices conceived many years before in an attempt to achieve "home ownership for all." Bush knew Fannie and Freddie were unregulated and out of control as they carried out the intentions of the Community Reinvestment Act – fueling the foolish buying and lending fever.

No, Mr. Turek, you don't get to refer to Republican errors of action as issues of integrity or character!

If, on the other hand, you are describing lies surrounding Benghazi, IRS treatment of certain organizations, ignoring polling place intimidation, or a cabinet member's endangerment of national security through private email usage.....that's another matter.