 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
**OBAMA: HE'S NOT
BEING ALL THAT
HE CAN BE!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  November 23, 2014



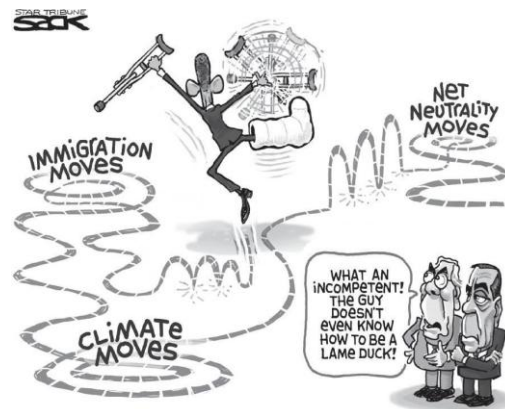
Here's what provoked me:

I was annoyed by an editorial cartoon that attempted to characterize as almost heroic, Obama's "independent" executive actions and orders subsequent to his party's drubbing in the recent election. It occurred to me that the situation he faces would have great potential for him legitimizing his presidency by establishing an admirable legacy. But he's way too narcissistic and his ideology is too inflexible. Nevertheless, here's what I think he should do!

Here's my response 😊:

Obama: He's not being all that he can be!

I've been thinking about the editorial cartoon on November 16 in which evil appearing Congressional leaders mock Obama's incompetency while a bandaged and limping Obama skips on one leg into the distance, leaving in his wake his anticipated efforts on immigration, climate regulation, and net neutrality. The implication is that the cartoonist's "hero" suffered severe injuries in the election, but due to his talent and bravery, he continues on, unperturbed.



Minneapolis Star Tribune, November 16, 2014

I disagree! Obama shouldn't be making "in your face" moves that at best will have minor temporary effect, and at worst be divisive and profoundly unsuccessful. He should do something he hasn't done before: LEAD a coalition!

He should accept his situation and get important things done:

- Re: Immigration, Republican leadership now has leverage to pass meaningful reform if Obama would compromise slightly by making "border security" a priority. He'd achieve most of his goals.
- Re: ObamaCare, both sides agree that it needs to change. All he needs to do is indicate his willingness to accept a "fix" and ask the Congress to submit one that can pass. He would have to give up his "total government control" in favor of a market-based system, but would get most of the legitimate reform sought in ObamaCare. "Fix" vs. "repeal/replace" is just semantics!
- Re: Keystone pipeline, it's popular and it's inevitable, so he should just get it done! He'd be a hero!

Rather than LEAD, Obama just "pushes," and all he can expect from that is a "push back."