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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**
CHIEF JUSTICE
JOHN ROBERTS,
OBAMACARE, AND
CLOSED DOORS

By Stephen L. Bakke  June 21, 2017



Here's what provoked me:

Hey SB! It seems like all I'm hearing this week is criticism about how the republicans went behind closed doors to draft the proposed replacement for Obamacare. I don't particularly care for that approach but I have a recollection that the democrats faced similar criticism. Do you happen to recall the situation? – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything.

Here's my response:

Chief Justice John Roberts, Obamacare, and Closed Doors

About two years ago the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act. Chief Justice Roberts, in writing the majority opinion, acknowledged his frustration over some of the tortured logic and language in Obamacare. Here's a portion of what Roberts wrote:

"The Affordable Care Act contains more than a few examples of inartful drafting. Several features of the Act's passage contributed to that unfortunate reality. Congress wrote key parts of the Act behind closed doors, rather than through 'the traditional legislative process.' And Congress passed much of the Act using a complicated budgetary procedure known as 'reconciliation,' which limited opportunities for debate and amendment, and bypassed the Senate's normal 60-vote filibuster requirement. As a result, the Act does not reflect the type of care and deliberation that one might expect of such significant legislation."

While "payback" doesn't usually justify uncooperative behavior, once again we have a case of hypocritical claims coming out of Washington.