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## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC" OBAMA BATTLES PARTISANSHIP AND RANCOR? SURELY YOU JEST!



By Stephen L. Bakke  February 11, 2016

### *Here's what provoked me:*

*A recent news report seemed to bemoan Obama's gallant but losing battle against uncompromising conservative ideologues. Obama sticks in the "knife" of anxiety and then turns it. He likes to stir the pot and then exploit whatever is the result. We don't hear enough about the divisive damage he does. I guess I'll try.*

### *Here's my response:*

#### **Obama Battles Partisanship and Rancor? Surely You Jest!**

New York Time's Mark Landler reported on Obama's greatest regret ("Obama says he regrets his failure to lift politics above partisan rancor," February 11). Landler tells us that Obama "has long portrayed Springfield (Illinois) as the place where he learned the art of compromise and the necessity of building bridges between divergent interests." Obama stated: "It was here in Springfield where I saw all that is America converge.....all of them with a story to tell.....all of them clamoring to be heard."

Landler gives the impression that Obama fought a gallant but losing battle against uncompromising conservative ideologues. A fair evaluation would also point out Obama's divisive actions:

- Following certain well publicized incidents or crimes, the things he said improperly pre-judged those involved.
- After other incidents, his "measured" silence also improperly sent a judgement message.
- Decisions made by his administration: not enforcing certain drug and immigration laws; ignoring election poll intimidation tactics; liberal activism such as EPA rules, etc.
- The bipartisan complaint that he has not adequately approached Congress to communicate and compromise.
- The nature of his Executive Orders – many bypassing Congress and inappropriately "creating law" rather than implementing Presidential responsibilities.
- Dividing the country through identity politics and class warfare.
- His smug, thin-skinned rants against Republicans whenever they oppose him.

Obama's dramatic "calls to action" merely camouflage his inability to convince Congress to do things his way. His idea of compromise doesn't include giving the ground necessary to foster agreement.

He's a classic ideologue – and that won't create consensus!