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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":
SECRECY? IT'S TOUGH
TO SURPASS THE KING
OF SECRECY
BARACK OBAMA!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  April 24, 2017



Here's what provoked me:

I constantly wonder about the double standard we have in this country regarding how political leaders are treated by other politicians and particularly the traditional press. It's extreme hypocrisy because what's sinful for one isn't necessarily a sin for the other. Trump is accused of all sorts of "secrecy" habits, and some are true, but Obama was a "stone-waller" of epic proportion, and didn't get a lot of intense criticism from the media.

Here's my response:

Secrecy? It's Tough to Surpass the King of Secrecy Barack Obama!

I really have no problem with the incessant barking at Trump to release his tax returns, to open up the visitors' log at the White House, or whatever. What does annoy me is the hypocritical blind eye that benefited Obama from day one. Here's a partial list:

- There remains no paper trail – little reliable biographical data – about Obama's formative years. He even commented on the advantage of his "anonymities" in his book "The Audacity of Hope."
- His impactful executive orders consistently placed his will in the way of debate and disclosure.
- Obama's administration was known for doing the minimum on Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Even congressional democrats were frustrated by slow administration responses to records requests.
- The ACLU unsuccessfully fought in court to obtain information on secret authorization of drone killings and other clandestine CIA activities.
- Obama fought an unprecedented war on leaks and whistleblowers.
- Obama classified material at a record pace.
- Consider the Iran nuclear deal with its side-agreements and secret deals. The Iranian Parliament voted on the equivalent of a 1000-page English language document, while the U.S. Congress was shown only a 159-page document. Only now are we learning about the "rules" of verification, prisoner swap, cash transfers, and various secret side agreements.

I could go on! I'm not claiming that I object to all Obama did. It's just ironic that Obama was regularly proclaiming unprecedented transparency, but was seldom seriously criticized for this false claim.