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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**  
**FLINT MICHIGAN'S  
WATER CRISIS:  
ONCE AGAIN,  
A LACK OF FACTS!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  February 3, 2016

*Here's what provoked me:*

*A favorite editorial opponent of mine blamed the Flint Michigan water crisis on the terrorists and killers in the conservative/republican ranks. He and I have gone at it several times before, and he hates losing to a superior argument, so I decided to once again counter his hateful and vindictive opinions in the newspaper.*

*Here's my response:*

**Flint Michigan's Water Crisis: Once Again, a Lack of Facts!**

Ron Smiley's message in "Where's concern for the people?" (February 3) is: Flint's "Republican-led government acts like terrorists by killing them with dirty water...(they) have killed 10 children..." Smiley points out that besides being killers and terrorists, conservatives are "nothing but hot air bags, not truly concerned about what is right and wrong." He predicts: "Michigan is an example of what America will be like under Republican control."

But shouldn't we gather and evaluate the facts in proper context? Consider:

- Under financial pressure, city and state officials terminated purchase of water from Detroit, and began taking water from the Flint River.
- That polluted water was so corrosive that it caused lead from water pipes to leach into drinking water.
- The Federal EPA began examining the situation a year ago, so the Obama administration has known about the situation since then.
- The Republican governor, while imperfect in performance, has been aware of the facts only since October.
- Flint, like other depressed cities like Detroit, has a long history of political dominance by Democrats.

My liberal and conservative countrymen.....get a grip.....there's plenty of blame to go around in the Flint disaster. But for Mr. Smiley to call conservatives and republicans "killers and terrorists" is absurd.