

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
UNHELPFUL?
PROBABLY!
BUT TREASON?
CERTAINLY NOT!



By Stephen L. Bakke  March 15, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

Several "letters to editor" called for "jail" and "treason" when referring to the 47 senators who signed an open letter to Iran while Obama is negotiating a nuclear agreement with Iran. The problem is, congress is being cut out of the process and the senators' letter advised all parties involved that any agreement was not binding on any future president because all such agreements (treaties) require Senate approval before being valid and enduring. Obama started this battle of "ignoring the other government branches" so, while I think the senators' action is unhelpful, I understand perfectly well how we got here. Such is the state of politics in the United States!

Here's my response:

Unhelpful? Probably! But treason? Certainly not!

47 senators sent a letter to Iran re: Iran's current negotiation with Obama. Then came loud cries of "TREASON!" This screaming reminds me of the French Revolution! "OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!" "Mailbag" letters on March 15 reflected that sentiment. Such is the state of politics in the U.S.

Before reaching a conclusion one needs to consider:

- Obama is negotiating an agreement with Iran.
- He wants to keep congress out of the loop.
- He plans to bring his case to the U.N. before consulting with congress.
- Congress is a co-equal branch of government and any "treaty" negotiated by Obama is subject to Senate approval – that's what the senators' letter explained.

Meddling is nothing new for either party:

- It's now fairly certain that Ted Kennedy elicited support from the Soviets to help defeat Reagan.
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi met with Syria's Abbas against the expressed objection of President Bush.
- Former President Carter had an unauthorized meeting with Hamas leaders to independently negotiate a settlement with Israel.
- Presidential candidate Obama sent an unauthorized emissary to Iran to assure the Ayatollah of his "friendship."

The senate letter and these events are foolish and unhelpful, but certainly not treason!