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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**
SHARP
PRESIDENTIAL
ELBOWS! OR
THE ART OF
THE DEAL?



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 5, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

During the Presidential campaign candidate Trump used Carrier Corporation as an example of U.S. companies relocating operations to Mexico and other places. Carrier was making plans to relocate part of their manufacturing to Mexico. Trump barked and Obama mocked him. Let's see what eventually happened.

Here's my response:

Sharp Presidential Elbows? Or the Art of the Deal?

While campaigning, Trump used Carrier Corporation as an example of U.S. jobs moving overseas. When Trump said he'd fix it, Obama mocked him saying, "How's he gonna do it, huh? Wave a magic wand?.....You can't make it happen." Yet Trump brought the parties together and negotiated a solution whereby Carrier receives state incentives to keep over 1,000 jobs in Indiana. As "Larry the Cable Guy" would say, "he gotter' dun!"

Democrats are attacking Trump for overstepping his bounds, not because he's just "POTUS-elect," but even as if he were President. He was accused of gaining the deal just based on threats and bribery. Democrats should recall Obama's sharp elbows during the Chrysler bankruptcy. Obama wanted to avoid results bankruptcy law would have yielded, so he intimidated and bullied the parties and steered the Chrysler reorganization in the direction he wanted. Legitimate secured lenders lost, and labor unions won. That's far more intrusive than Trump's minor "dance" with Carrier.

I do agree this isn't the way Trump should get things done when President, but it's symbolic of what he can accomplish. He wants to lower corporate tax rates and eliminate loopholes. Combine that with tax incentives to repatriate foreign earnings, regulatory reform, and smart bilateral trade agreements, and we will see American business and employment rebound – without, I believe, punitive measures.

I want "the art of the deal," not "sharp elbows."