

 **MORE
RANDOM
THOUGHTS**

Steve Bakke  August 25, 2018



- Here's something I don't understand: a poorly conducted news conference with Trump and Putin being described as equivalent to the Cuban Missile Crisis, the 9/11 attack, and it "will live in infamy as much as the Pearl Harbor attack or Kristallnacht." (Jill-Wine-Banks on MSNBC)
- For anyone who's tempted to criticize Trump's allegedly "treasonous" act in trying, in his own unique way, to get along with Putin, always remember: What was Bill and Hillary's role in the uranium deal with Russian nuclear interests?; it was Obama and Hillary who gave the Russian Foreign minister a reset button; it was Obama who withdrew defensive missiles from new allied countries in Eastern Europe, as a gesture of goodwill to Russia; Obama was caught on a live mic sending a message to Putin that he would have more flexibility after the U.S. election; and it was Obama who mocked candidate Mitt Romney's characterization of Russia as a significant strategic rival and threat.
- Shutting down governmental non-essential services sometimes happens when the legislature can't agree on a budget, and someone is always assigned blame. How is it decided who or which party to blame since both sides are refusing to compromise?
- Reflecting on the "take a knee" claims that it's not about the U.S. flag or National Anthem, I've always considered communication a two-way street – there is what was stated as the intended message, and there is what message is received. I've been taught the message being received is just as important as what was intended. It's time for a new strategy.
- In 2015 Obama removed a reporter for interrupting him "in his house" (the White House). Reporters applauded Obama's action. But Trump was recently scorned when a reporter was banned from a future event after refusing to stop yelling questions.
- Ted Kennedy contacted Russian officials requesting help defeating Reagan. Little objection ensued. Obama was recorded telling Russian President Medvedev that he, Obama, would have more flexibility after his reelection. Little or no criticism. For comparison, Trump's Helsinki meeting with Putin resulted in unfortunate comments, and he was accused of treason – a capital offense.
- More research is needed, but apparently, self-described "pro-choicers" and "pro-lifers" would be satisfied with permitting abortions, but restricting them to incidents of rape, incest or saving mothers' lives. Why isn't this common ground explored?
- An observation: Tolerance carried to the extreme becomes intolerance. And, I've concluded that Trump derangement syndrome carried to the extreme leads to something similar to holocaust denial. How? Accusations of being Nazi stormtroopers significantly minimizes the holocaust – just like denial does.
- The important negative connotation of truly lying is diminished when lumped together with mistakes, difference of opinion, and exaggerations. But that's politics I guess.

- Someone told me “freedom means no one has the right to tell me what to believe.” I responded, “No – freedom means they can tell you, but you have the right not to do it.”
- I get impatient with Trump’s style, hyperbole, and shooting from the hip – but he ain’t no NAZI – compare the dead body counts if for some reason you aren’t sure.

Thanks for “listening.”