

The Imperial President



The law, Obama wants us to believe, is whatever he says it is

BY RICHARD ESENBERG

Truth be told, the rule of law can be a bit of a drag. In Robert Bolt's play *A Man For All Seasons*, Thomas More upbraided William Roper, who would have eagerly "cut down every law in England" to get at the devil. Many of us want to stand with More in general, but run with Roper in the particulars.

President Barack Obama, for example, seems quite willing to cut down every law that stands in the way of slaying what he sees as the devils around him. He has a pen and a phone. He has a highly developed sense of his own infallibility and a carefully nurtured disdain for those who disagree.

The bill of particulars is long. The Affordable Care Act, riddled with both genuine errors and a flawed design, has become whatever the president says it is. He has announced that whole categories of people who are in the country illegally may remain indefinitely and is considering conferring what is effectively immunity on millions more.

He has instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate a "cap and trade" scheme that even a heavily Democratic Congress would not pass. He has fundamentally altered the Clinton-era welfare reform and instructed military contractors to ignore plant-closing laws. He has engaged in illegal prisoner exchanges and abused his recess appointment powers in unprecedented ways. We've seen *Fast and Furious*, IRS targeting and National Security Agency snooping. Is there no budget? No problem.