

Are Republicans and Democrats in Cahoots?

By Drew Jensen
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The Tea-party movement has finally triggered some budget battles in Washington, and cutting spending has become a popular talking point. Last night the Republicans and the Democrats agreed to \$38 billion in cuts for 2011, and Paul Ryan has put out a budget that cuts \$6 trillion over the next ten years. Color me unimpressed. First off, these aren't even spending cuts; they are cuts off a budget that wasn't passed. Only in Washington can a wild and fiscally insane budget be proposed by the President with no chance of being passed; only to then be used by the opposing party as baseline spending. It is that kind of dishonesty that has created the Tea Party in the first place and it makes it look like the Republicans and Democrats are in cahoots. Is it all a big scam?

Obama's budget increases federal spending from \$3.729 trillion in 2012 to \$5.697 trillion in 2021. That is a 52.8% increase in government spending in 10 years. Per his budget, using his own make believe growth numbers, the Gross Federal Debt goes from \$15.476 trillion in 2011 to \$26.346 trillion. That is another 70.2% increase in Federal Debt in the next 10 years! Please bear in mind that the total Federal Government spending in 2006 was \$2.665 trillion. Our deficit that year (post tax cuts) was \$249 billion dollars. The lowest projected deficit, using Obama's own projected growth numbers, is \$619 billion in 2019; which is 2 ½ times greater than the Bush deficit the year before the Democrats took over both houses of the Congress. Pretty ugly, huh? In rides Paul Ryan, the economic guru, on the Tea Party express to save the day.

The extreme and radical Ryan plan, that kills women, children, and old people increases Federal spending from \$3.529 trillion in 2012 to \$4.739 trillion in 2021. Oh the horror; Ryan's plan only increase Federal spending by 25.5%. Ryan's plan runs deficits every year for the next ten years and the closest he comes to a balanced budget is \$402 billion dollars. Again, using his own projected growth numbers, his smallest deficit in the next ten years is 1 ½ times greater than our deficit in 2006. I think the economic guru went cuckoo!

Consider this, with the tax cuts and with the sluggish economy the federal government is projecting \$2.163 trillion in revenues in 2011. In 2000 our total federal spending was \$1.789 trillion. If we would have increased spending at 2% per year for the last 11 years we would be spending \$2.224 trillion in 2011 and have a \$61 billion dollar deficit this year. **AND PLEASE LISTEN TO THIS IF NOTHING ELSE**, our debt with the same revenues would have decreased to \$4.233 trillion as we would have had surpluses in 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, & 2008.

But, but, but, but, but..... But we had emergencies. But we had a hurricane. But terrorists killed people. But we had wars. But we had a recession. But we had bank failures. But housing prices got too high and now they are going down. But there was violence in the Middle East. But, but, but, but, but..... **BUT** no shit, emergencies, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, tsunamis, recessions, violence in the Middle East and all sorts of trials and tribulations occur all of the time, that's life. **BUT** it is no reason to go fiscally brain dead.

We've run our debt from \$5.629 trillion in 2000 to \$15.459 trillion in the last 11 years. If the government had only increased its spending by 2% each year for the last 11 years, and put the difference between what it wanted (actually spent) in a vault, the government today could send a check of \$30,718.75 to 320 MILLION Americans (roughly the US population). If we sent these checks to every American we would then have the same debt we would have today, BUT in 2012 using Obama's projected revenue numbers and keeping our government spending growing at 2% each year from 2000 to 2012 we would have a \$358 billion dollar SURPLUS next year. That INCLUDES the tax cuts and the \$30,718.75 checks to 320,000,000 Americans. I have 4 kids and a wife; that would be \$184,312.50 for my family alone!

What has all this spending done for us? Are we all riding around on unicorns and getting free blow jobs while we fill out our taxes? From what I see, we have 8.8% unemployment, we are fighting in three wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya (you wouldn't trade 1 of our aircraft carriers for the combined militaries of all 3 of these countries), we are loaning money to banks at zero percent interest so we can borrow it back at 3%, and we own two car companies.

I'll admit it; I'm a radical extremist who believes in a balanced budget. I believe the choice should not be between (1) a budget that increases federal spending by 52.8% and increases the debt by an additional \$10.887 trillion in the next ten years, or (2) a budget that increases federal spending by 25.5% and also never balances the budget over the next ten years. I believe the point of budgeting is to prioritize, and spend what you have in revenue in the most effective manner, while spending less than revenues. We need to cut spending back to levels where a balanced budget is possible, instead of increasing spending and saying we are cutting spending from fake and made up numbers. Cutting deficits is the same thing as going into further debt at a slower rate. It is that kind of dishonesty that created the Tea Party and puts Congress's approval rating at 23%. If we can't get the Unicorns, the blow jobs, or the \$184,000 checks, can we at least get a balanced budget? I doubt it; it would kill too many women, children, old people, and Polar Bears.

Sources:

Obama's budget numbers- Table S-1 and Table S-14 found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2012/assets/tables.pdf>

Ryan's budget numbers- Table S-1 found at:

<http://budget.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PathToProsperityFY2012.pdf>

Historical Spending and Revenue numbers found at:

<http://www.usgovernmentrevenue.com/index.php>

<http://www.usgovernmentspending.com/index.php>

Congressional Approval rating found at:

www.realclearpolitics.com