

## Will Obama, Hill GOP 'give a little bit?'

[David Boaz](#) Executive VP, Cato Institute :

This isn't a serious budget proposal. Even the Washington Post, hardly a tea party organ, says in its lead editorial that the budget punts, ducks, uses gimmickry and rosy scenarios, and projects a national debt soaring past 100 percent of GDP - into Greek territory. A man as intelligent as the president must be embarrassed to present such a proposal.

My colleague Chris Edwards wrote at the Cato blog, "His new budget proposes slightly more discretionary and entitlement spending for next year than did his last budget! Last year, Obama planned to spend \$1.301 trillion on discretionary programs in FY2012, but now he plans to spend \$1.340 trillion. Last year, Obama planned to spend \$2,107 on entitlement programs in FY2012, but now he plans to spend \$2,140." He proposes to stabilize federal spending at a new and much higher level, locking in what were originally "emergency" levels of spending.

The Republicans should tell him that the last pre-emergency budget - 2007 or 2008 - is the starting point for adjustments and negotiation. But Republicans haven't established much credibility on spending restraint either.