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In which I disagree with David Boaz

Wed, 12/29/2010 - 12:31pm | posted by Jason Pye

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Over at Cato @ Liberty, David Boaz is taking up for former Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), who is being mentioned as a possible addition to the Obama Administration, against criticism from the right:

> On Fox News's "Special Report" tonight, discussing potential new Cabinet members for President Obama, Weekly Standard senior writer Stephen Hayes dismissed former senator Chuck Hagel as "an anti-Republican Republican — somebody who's officially a Republican but in fact isn't all that Republican."
>
> Really?
>
> It's true that Hagel didn't always march in lockstep with the Bush-Cheney administration, whose loyal amanuensis Hayes has been. But is this really an "anti-Republican" record?
>
> - Voted for the Iraq war
> - Voted for the Patriot Act
> - Voted for the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts
> - Voted against No Child Left Behind
> - Voted against Bush's Medicare prescription drug bill
> - Voted against McCain-Feingold
>
> That's not a down-the-line Bush-McCain record. But would Hayes say it's not a Republican voting record? Hagel had a lifetime rating of 84 percent from the American Conservative Union and consistent A and B grades from the National Taxpayers Union. He did emerge in 2006 as a critic of the Iraq war. And his wife endorsed Obama in 2008.

It's not often that I find myself in disagreement with David Boaz, but I do here.

Yes, Hagel has demonstrated some small government leanings in his past. However, you can't help but write the guy off after he endorsed Joe Sestak over Pat Toomey in the hotly contested United States Senate race in Pennsylvania because of the former's "courageous, independent thinking." Toomey, a believer in free markets and economic prosperity, went on to defeat Sestak.

Of course, Hagel was full of it. Sestak voted with his party 97.6% of the time on an agenda that hardly represents the beliefs Hagel exhibited when he was in the Senate, which includes increasing regulations, imposing a disasterous health care law, expanding the war in Afghanistan and opposes tax cuts that will get the economy going.

I'm not saying that Boaz is wrong, but there perhaps some criticism of Hagel is valid considering his most recent actions.

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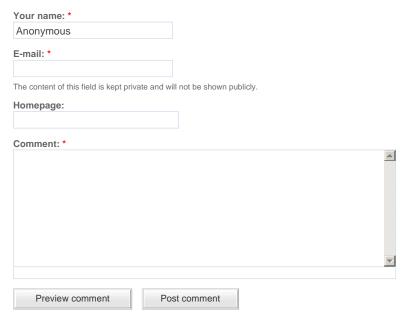- House Democrats block tax cuts for job creators

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