

Neil Cavuto on money and politics_

By Jennifer Brett – September 26, 2013

Fox News and Fox Business Network anchor and managing editor **Neil Cavuto** lives at the intersection of money and politics, now more than ever given <u>Congressional debate</u> over the health care legislation that both sides generally often refer to as Obamacare and the corresponding debate over the budget. Are we facing a government shutdown? Will the Affordable Care Act be forever ensnared in political debate?

The affable Cavuto discussed all this and more this week during an interview coordinated by Fox Business Network's energetic PR department.

"We're facing something that has become almost routine," he said. "We're facing the prospect of a budget resolution that doesn't get resolved, a government that runs out of money. Sadly, we're getting used to this. In a way I think it's here we go again."

He says constant wrangling over the budget and whether to lift the nation's debt ceiling again and again manifests itself throughout our society.

"It's instilling in our kids, who says you have to do things on time? Who says you have to show discipline? It's ingrained in our kids."

Six in 10 Georgians have little understanding of how Obamacare will affect them or their families, but most of them still don't like it, <u>a new poll conducted for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u>shows. <u>Click</u> here for the link to the AJC's comprehensive coverage of the new health care law.

Cavuto said he has been surprised at the number of companies amending their health care policies in light of the new legislation. Here in metro Atlanta, Home Depot is eliminating the limited medical insurance it offers its many part-time employees in reaction to the law. That move affects about 20,000 part-time Home Depot workers nationwide. (Click here for more on that development.)

"What I'm amazed by is all these premier Fortune 500 companies saying you know, it really isn't worth the hassle," Cavuto said "I think that was a little more dramatic and sooner than anyone envisioned. That is one of the many unintended consequences."

Cavuto also commented on a new Cato Institute study that found that welfare currently pays more than a minimum-wage job in 35 states. (See where Georgia ranks and other details here).

"You're not going to get off your couch if the benefits behoove you to stay," Cavuto said.

Congress is debating legislation that would require new work rules for food stamp recipients. (<u>More on that here</u>). <u>According to an AJC report in July</u>, Georgia has surged from having the 15th-highest proportion of food stamp recipients to sixth-highest in the nation, with much of the increase occurring during the recent recession.

"I'm not here to say people shouldn't have food stamps," Cavuto said. "That comes across as callous – like you don't want people to eat. It wasn't that long ago that we were at 10 million (recipients nationwide - a number that has quadrupled)."

Cavuto's self-titled show airs at 8 p.m. weeknights (<u>see the full Fox schedule here</u>) and has been focusing on the debt ceiling debate this week.

"The one rule I have for people is avoid jargon," he said. "There's a temptation to sound like the smartest kid in the class. There are a lot more average Joes and Joannes. I'm going to go for those people. I'm not in any rush to sound like smartest kid in the class."