

# Time to pull together

**Brattleboro Reformer**

Thursday November 4, 2010

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

That's something both Democrats and Republicans should take to heart when they reconvene the U.S. Congress next year.

With Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives and Democrats maintaining a tenuous hold on the Senate, something has to give, but if the two parties aren't willing to meet somewhere in the middle, very little will get done over the next two years.

And if Republicans believe they can ram through legislation with little input from Democrats, they will most likely be stopped in their tracks by the ink in President Barack Obama's veto pen.

Ohio's John Boehner, the presumptive House Speaker, has promised Republicans will "change course" by rolling back the size of government and downsizing the recent health care legislation, but exactly how they plan to do so hasn't really been explained.

If the GOP and its Tea Party faction are serious about cutting government spending, the Libertarian Cato Institute has a number of ways they can do it.

Making cuts to education, farm, housing and energy subsidies and to the military, the war on drugs, federal wages and Social Security could save up to \$525 billion a year, according to Cato.

The institute also recommends scrapping the health care overhaul bill and converting Medicaid into a fixed block grant program. Such a change could save \$1 trillion over 10 years, according to Cato.

While the *Reformer* doesn't always agree with the Cato Institute, its recommendations are a good non-partisan place to start. Its recommendations can be found at [downsizinggovernment.org](http://downsizinggovernment.org).

What the country does not need is for Republicans to initiate a number of investigations into the Obama administration, as was threatened on Wednesday by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who is in line to become the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

To be fair, Issa also said he would consider investigating actions taken by the George W. Bush administration.

But more disturbingly, Issa recently said that the White House's offer of a job earlier this year to Joe Sestak, who lost his bid to represent Pennsylvania in the Senate, was "an impeachable offense."

To paraphrase Shakespeare, talk of investigations and impeachment is a tale told by a dissembler, "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Whether Issa truly plans to pursue investigations, only time will tell. But we think Republicans should think twice before they leap headlong into frivolous forays that will do nothing but enrage a populace that is sick and tired of more of the same.

The *Reformer* believes pursuing tenuous allegations at the expense of getting the job done in Washington, D.C., is not what most Americans were demanding when they cast their votes on Tuesday.

What everyone wants to see is this nasty election cycle put to rest and Congress rolling up its sleeves and getting down to some serious work.

So rather than spending time and money on investigations that are meant to do nothing more than prep the ground for the elections in 2012, the Republicans need to put their suggested budget cuts on the table -- and realistic cuts, not just those the Democrats are sure to reject -- and be prepared to explain and defend them.

In response, the Democrats also need to present their suggested cuts.

And we are waiting to hear from both parties "How can we work together to get America back on the track?"

Democrats and Republicans need to put aside the vitriole and figure out a way to work together for the betterment of the nation and not for the interests of each of the parties and their high-rolling benefactors.

They've been talking the talk ... now's the time to walk the walk.

Close Window

Send To Printer