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RICHARD ADAMS'S BLOG



'You Cut'? Shouldn't that be You Prick?

'You Cut' is a Republican wheeze to get public support for budget reductions. But the cuts it offers are mere pin-pricks

Here's a cunning wheeze by the Republican party House whip Eric Cantor: [You Cut](#), a website where you, the people, can tell the Republican party what areas of the US federal budget should be cut. Great idea? Well, maybe not.

You Cut doesn't offer voters much choice about what to cut – just five options are on offer, including a chance to give the thumbs down to the massive "HUD Programme for Doctoral Dissertations", which You Cut says would save ... one million dollars.

Indeed it's not even \$1m up front either, as You Cut explains:

Recently, taxpayers have financed research on media strategies for housing policy and the use of eminent domain for urban redevelopment. Why should families who are struggling to pay for their children's college also being asked to fund stipends from the government for those who want to write their dissertation on certain government-preferred policies? At approximately \$200,000 in grants per year, terminating this program would save \$1 million over five years.

In fact, even if all the You Cut budget reductions were made, the total would come to – according to the Cato Institute – a whopping 0.017% from the \$3.7tn US federal government's budget. That's not a cut, it's a pin prick.

No wonder You Cut has gone down badly even with [Republicans](#) and those, such as cato, who would be sympathetic to the idea of slashing budgets. Writes [Chris Edwards of Cato](#): "But thus far with You Cut, we have the Empire State Building engulfed in flames and Mr. Cantor sending in a toddler with a squirt gun to solve the problem."

The red-meat conservative types over at Red State blog have no time for such a gimmick. "So it's an exercise that really does nothing and waste congressional GOP leaders' time. It's a PR gimmick. How stupid do they think we are? Nice try Eric, but we don't find parlour tricks entertaining right now," [writes Ron Robinson](#), calling the proposal "hollow, lame".

The site does have an option to [send in your own suggestions](#), so if you feel like calling for a 90% cut in military spending – now that would put a dent in the deficit – then go right ahead.

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**Zepp**

15 May 2010, 6:37AM

Oddly enough, when considering Cantor, the term "You prick" frequently comes to mind.

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**wyngwili**

15 May 2010, 10:38AM

Thank goodness for the BBC. It has its faults but will always counter the likes of Fox and Sky "news".

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**jigen**

15 May 2010, 2:53PM

How stupid do they think we are?

I would respond: Well, you do write for a blog called Red State....

As for cuts, it makes sense to start with the largest expenditures and work down, if you're looking for meaningful cuts: <http://www.nationalpriorities.org/taxday2010>

Of course, the gorilla in the room is the military, notoriously tied into the military-industrial complex, making it difficult for any politician to reign in spending. (If a politician suggests trimming the bloated budget, arms manufacturers will threaten to close a plant in the politician's state, taking precious jobs away.)

And, of course, the Red Staters aren't interested in cutting the military because they're a fearful lot and see a potential enemy every time they see a map featuring a nation outside the US. Yellow Staters might be more accurate.

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15 May 2010, 6:44PM

I'm all for cuts in the US Military. I mean cutting out all contractors (Xi/Blackwater anyone?) holding those who supply the US military to holding their promises and their estimates on hardware to what they said or be charged with treason.

The sad thing is about it all is the US wouldn't need to be in the M.E. and defending ourselves from religious nut jobs if:

1: We distance ourselves from Israel. No more loans, no more support, no more vetoes. Israel is Israel's friend and would sell the US out in a heartbeat.

2: A sane energy policy. Nuclear, Solar, Wind. get rid of our dependence on foreign oil.

3: Working for all in the M.E., not just rich sheikdoms or transplanted Europeans types.

Then perhaps the US will be far more secure.

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17 May 2010, 2:12PM

Well at least someone wants to try something different. We cannot continue they way we are doing. Try and contact your democratic reps and they won't even respond to you. I have gotten on the website and see that this is just a beginning. Richard Adams is just an example of the main problem we face, he cannot look at the other sides point of view because it's not his point of view.

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