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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

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On defense spending, (Mitt) Romney's approach has been "Fire. Ready. Aim." He has accused (Barack) Obama of shortchanging the military, and he pledges to spend at least 4 percent of the nation's GDP on the Pentagon's base budget, a promise that would bring spending to levels unprecedented since the end of World War II. Romney has yet to spell out what other spending he would cut, or what taxes he would increase, in order to make up what I estimate to be \$2.5 trillion in additional spending over the next decade. Or he could just add to the deficit, as George W. Bush did.

A recent Gallup poll found that 41 percent of Americans think we spend too much on the military, as opposed to just 24 percent who think we don't spend enough. ... It is hard to see how his stance will win over the war-weary public that isn't anxious to repeat our Iraq and Afghanistan adventures and that isn't looking to boost military spending, either.

-- **Christopher Preble**, The National Interest \

Barack Obama's appeal to Ronald Reagan is illuminating in a number of ways. It's illuminating that today's liberals need to appeal to the example of Reagan to sell their policies. That's a posthumous victory for Reagan, and an important contemporary victory for Reaganism.

For Reagan, America at its best is citizen-centered and "bubble up." For Obama, America is government-centered and top-down. This is in a way the core difference between these two presidents ... Barack Obama has established the legitimacy and precedent of appealing to Ronald Reagan. What a gift to Mitt Romney! Now Romney just has to walk through the door Obama has opened, reclaim Reagan by elaborating on his vision and updating his policies, make the case against the nanny state and for freedom and a "bubble up" society -- and win.

-- William Kristol, The Weekly Standard