



Search

HOME MEDIA CENTER 2012 GOP PRESIDENTIAL RACE CONTACT

Log in Join United Liberty

White House wants "adult conversation", just not with you

Fri, 03/11/2011 - 2:53pm | posted by Tom Knighton

Like 4 people like this.

President Obama wants to have an "adult conversation" about budget cuts. He's also said he wanted the most transparent government in history. So Jagadeesh Gokhale and David Schoenbrod of the Cato Institute decided to take the President at his word. They wanted data so they could take part in the so-called "adult conversation".

Unfortunately, here's what happened:

To acquire the information necessary for an "adult conversation" on the budget, we formally requested that OMB Director Jack Lew release the projections. The response was a letter stating that the information was "not available to the general public."

One excuse was that OMB's long-term projections were not fully "vetted." Another was that the information "could lead to unintended misrepresentations of the administration's proposals."

Well, isn't that transparent?

I understand concerns about information being used to misrepresent intentions. Unfortunately, you're not going to stop that by simply not letting the information get out. Instead, you create an environment where suspicion begins to take hold, where people make up their own data points – either through educated methods or just systematic wild assed guessing – and use them to misrepresent the proposals.

Open government, something that President Obama promised and that I sincerely prayed he would deliver, can not function without debate over the issues. That is one reason why freedom of speech is so important to a free society. However, we must also have accountability with regard to what the government is doing and thinking. Free speech isn't particularly effective when it doesn't know what it's talking about.

Gokhale and Schoenbrod go on to discuss how the Obama administration is no different than previous administrations with regard to budget issues. They also point out how important it is to have these projections they want in order to speak intelligently on budget issues...not that anyone in the White House actually cares. It's a pretty good read, and I highly recommend it.

Related Posts

- Why people blow off climate change
- Mary Katharine Ham destroys the Socialist Weasel
- Sen. Rand Paul on balancing the budget
- NPR executive slams tea party movement
- ObamaCare headed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals

194 READS SHARETHIS

Tagged: Balanced Budget Barack Obama Bloomberg budget budget cuts budget deficit David Schoenbrod Jagadeesh Gokhale national debt Spending White House

Featured posts

Obama: Stupendous Man! and Lawgiver by Louis DeBroux

High Speed Idiocy by Tom Knighton - 5 Comments

Ron Paul Gets It Wrong On DOMA by Doug Mataconis - 46 Comments

Catching up on Wisconsin by Jason Pye

Latest Videos

Popular Videos

Sen. Rand Paul on balancing the budget 03/11/2011 - 1:18pm 1 COMMENTS 184 VIEWS

Rep. Jerrold Nadler: CAGW's Porker of the Month for Feb. 2011 02/24/2011 - 12:48am 1 COMMENTS 472 VIEWS

5 Rules for Coping with Tragedy 01/13/2011 - 12:03am 2 COMMENTS 1021 VIEWS

How Wikileaks Fights Big Government 12/14/2010 - 10:45pm 5 COMMENTS 1558 VIEWS

More Recent Videos »



Twitter

United Liberty Writers

Post new comment

Your name: *

Anonymous

E-mail: *







The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Homepage:

Comment: *

Preview comment

Post comment

-  **dmataconis** So You Want To A Media Pundit? <http://bit.ly/h3pHHp>
10 minutes ago · reply
-  **brettbittner** @jaseliberty now you can listen/watch the whole thing.
18 minutes ago · reply
-  **jaseliberty** @brettbittner I heard your goofy ass on WSB this morning.
21 minutes ago · reply
-  **jaseliberty** The first day back always sucks.
23 minutes ago · reply
-  **brettbittner** My speech at yesterday's Rock the SPLOST Rally <http://www.youtube.com/w...>
24 minutes ago · reply
-  **dmataconis** Looking for a GF? RT

 Join the conversation



NetBoots
WEBSITES for ***
CONSERVATIVE CAMPAIGNS
EASY TO UPDATE | STARTING AT \$50/MONTH

[Barack Obama](#) [Harry Reid](#) [John McCain](#) mid-term election [ObamaCare](#) [Polling](#) [Rand Paul](#) [Republicans](#) [Ron Paul](#) [Senate Election](#) [2010 Tea Party](#) [tea party movement](#) [more tags](#)

ARCHIVES

- [March 2011](#)
- [February 2011](#)
- [January 2011](#)
- [December 2010](#)
- [November 2010](#)
- [October 2010](#)
- [September 2010](#)
- [August 2010](#)

BLOGS & SITES

- [Andrew Sullivan](#)
- [Anything Peaceful](#)
- [Cafe Hayek](#)
- [Carpe Diem](#)
- [Cato @ Liberty](#)
- [Dave Weigel](#)
- [David Friedman](#)
- [Debtwatch](#)
- [Division of Labour](#)
- [EconLog](#)
- [Economix](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight](#)
- [Freakonomics](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Greg Mankiw](#)
- [more...](#)

ORGANIZATIONS

- [AntiWar.com](#)
- [Campaign for Liberty](#)
- [Cato Institute](#)

- [Downsize DC](#)
- [Foundation for Economic Education](#)
- [Freedom Advocates](#)
- [FreedomWorks](#)
- [FreedomWorks PAC](#)
- [Iraq Veterans Against the War](#)
- [Tax Foundation](#)

Popular posts

Obama: Stupendous Man! and Lawgiver
Tue, 03/08/2011 - 12:22pm / 493 views

Democrats and libertarians
Wed, 03/09/2011 - 1:40pm / 462 views

ObamaCare headed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals
Wed, 03/09/2011 - 3:14pm / 450 views

Recent comments

Thanks for the nice post. I...
3 hours 40 min ago

It's good to see this...
3 hours 41 min ago

This is a smart blog. I mean...
3 hours 42 min ago

[more »](#)

Contact us

Jason Pye, Editor-In-Chief

[jason \[at\] unitedliberty \[dot\] org](mailto:jason@unitedliberty.org)

[LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

Brett Bittner, Assistant Editor

[brett \[at\] unitedliberty \[dot\] org](mailto:brett@unitedliberty.org)

[LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)