



Chris Christie at Cato

Prospective Republican Veep well-received by libertarian audience

Posted by [Eric Dondero](#) at [5/05/2012 09:23:00 AM](#)

From [ABC News](#), "New Jersey Governor Chris Christie 'Not Looking to be Loved'"
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie says his record in the Garden State is evidence that divided government doesn't have to mean gridlock, when leaders make the right "tough choices."
At a biannual dinner of Washington's libertarian Cato Institute Friday night, Christie told the crowd it was the duty of lawmakers to tell the truth about the nation's economic problems, or risk lengthening the fiscal fallout.

Continuing:

"When you're looking for love in this job, that's when deficits get run up," Christie said.

"When you're looking for love in this job, it's because you can't say no to anything because someone somewhere won't love you if you do."

Christie said he was "not looking to be loved" in his state, recounting his administration's cuts to veterans' programs, education, and public employee benefits; examples of so called "third-rails" in politics. The Republican called the slashed budgets "common sense reforms, but tough ones."

in the last few weeks he's confessed he was open to the VP slot; most recently on Monday he told a New Jersey high school class that Romney "might be able to convince me," to share a ticket. Romney, Christie continued, is a "convincing guy."

Additionally:

The Cato Institute is a think tank focused on individual liberties and free-market economics. The organization's gala gathering that night was to award a Chinese activist, Mao Yushi, with their Milton Friedman Prize for his work advocating a Western-style economy in Beijing.