

Is the Budget Deal a Game-Changer?

Boehner Left \$6 Billion on the Table

By Daniel Mitchell

The \$39 billion number in the budget deal announced Friday is disappointingly low. I've been told this is a kiss-your-sister deal. If so, we don't have any siblings that look like Claudia Schiffer.

It was unrealistic to expect the full \$61 billion sought by Tea Party conservatives, but \$45 billion was certainly possible with a bolder approach. The good news is:

- This is the first time fiscal policy has moved in the right direction in at least 10 years.
- There will be no funding for additional IRS agents. Implementing Obamacare would require as many as 16,000 new tax bureaucrats to harass the American people, so at least that process will be stalled.
- A school choice program for Washington, DC, has been restored, thus reversing President Obama's decision to kill the program and sacrifice poor children to advance the interests of the teacher unions.

Now let's look at the less desirable parts of the agreement.

- Total spending jumped by almost \$2 trillion during the Bush-Obama spending binge, so a \$39 billion cut is almost too small to mention.
- Left-wing organizations such as Planned Parenthood will continue to feed at the public trough, something that should be objectionable to everyone, regardless of your views on abortion.
- Obamacare is not repealed (not that I ever thought that was possible) and there is no restriction on the EPA's unilateral assertion of power to implement global warming policies.

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