

DAILY-NEWS RECORD ONLINE**GOP Not 'Slashing'**Posted March 24, 2011
12:00 AM EDT**\$6 Billion In Cuts Barely A Sliver**

[John Hinderaker](#) of the [Powerline blog](#) offers a neat way to look at the impending "cuts" to the federal budget. He proves that they aren't cuts at all. They aren't even a trim.

[Mr. Hinderaker rified](#) off of a piece by Dan Mitchell of the Cato Institute, [who complained](#) that [The Washington Post described](#) the \$6 billion sliver of federal budget cuts as "slashing". Wrote Mr. Mitchell:

"Federal spending has soared by more than \$2,000,000,000,000 during the Bush-Obama years, pushing the burden of government up to \$3,800,000,000,000, yet the reporters who put together this story said that an agreement to trim a trivially tiny slice of 2011 spending would 'slash the budget.'

"As Charlie Brown would say, good grief. This is the budgetary equivalent of going on a diet by leaving a couple of french fries in the bottom of the bag after bingeing on three Big Mac meals at McDonald's."

Mr. Mitchell [also noted](#) what the Post did not say about President Obama's failed \$1 trillion stimulus:

"When Obama wanted to spend about \$1 trillion on a failed 'stimulus,' did the Washington Post write that he wanted to 'bloat' or 'explode' the budget? I certainly don't remember such language.

"When Obama wanted to increase the net burden of spending by about \$500 billion for his healthcare scheme, did the Washington Post explain that he wanted to 'dramatically boost' or 'significantly expand' outlays? Maybe I missed the story, but I don't recollect such language."

Neither can anyone else, but back to Mr. Hinderaker, who visited McDonald's to buy a large french fries to complete Mr. Mitchell's equation.

"I wondered," [Mr. Hinderaker wrote](#), "if you do the math, what part of a Big Mac Extra Value Meal would a \$6 billion budget cut represent?" Mr. Hinderaker whipped out the calculator to find out.

A Big Mac Meal contains 1,320 calories. Cutting \$6 billion from a \$3.8 trillion budget is equals one-633rd of the total. Mr. Hinderaker's order at the Golden Arches contained 87 french fries.

Thus, "[i]f there are 570 calories in a large order of fries, and 87 fries per order, each french fry, on the average, contains 6.5 calories. One-633rd of the total calorie content of a Big Mac Extra Value Meal is 1,320/633, or 2.1 calories. That equals almost exactly one-third of an average sized french fry."

[Mr. Hinderaker concludes](#) that "slashing" your diet Democrat-style would require this: "Go to McDonald's and order a Big Mac Extra Value meal. Eat the Big Mac. Drink the Coke. Eat 86 of the 87 french fries. Carefully take the last fry and bite off two-thirds of it. Put the remaining one-third of one fry back in the bag.

"If you seriously think that you have just 'slashed' your diet, you are a Democrat. Most likely, an overweight Democrat."

That doesn't mean Republicans aren't "overweight," apropos of the message [the last election sent](#) not only to the Obama Administration, but also to establishment pachyderms who eagerly line up with Democrats at the public trough. The Bush administration [contributed mightily](#) to the [\\$14.2 trillion national debt](#).

Americans want the government, meaning both parties, to embark on a diet that returns the country to sane levels of federal spending. They also want Congress to eliminate worthless programs that do nothing but subsidize sloth among the indolent and further enrich the wealthy with corporate welfare.

The only way to lose weight is to eat less. The only way to cut the budget is to spend less. Both parties must learn that.