



Energy Arena

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Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: [David Mark](#)

Boehner, Obama's favorite foil

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The contrast the president drew was clear enough. His problem is that the people aren't buying what he's selling -- and for good reason. His ideas, far from being new, have been tried countless times, both here and abroad. They don't work. And they undermine basic American principles about individual liberty and free choice.

So when Obama says that Boehner and the Republicans have no new ideas, he's partly right. (They have new ideas about how to address unsustainable entitlement programs -- ask Rep. Paul Ryan.) At least in their rhetoric -- their behavior in office, alas, is too often another matter -- Republicans stand in substantial part for old ideas that work and conform more closely to the nation's first principles, starting with lower taxes, less regulation, and less government management of the economy. That contrasts sharply with Obama's countless

"programs" to "stimulate" the economy, his targeted tax and spending schemes to create "green jobs," to sell cars, and on and on. Listening to him, you'd think the economy would collapse were it not for Washington's management of it.

The truth is quite the opposite, of course, as Americans are coming increasingly to appreciate. Economies prosper when entrepreneurs with ideas and capital are able to employ both for profit. But they won't do that when conditions are uncertain, as they are when government meddles recklessly and uncertainly at every turn. How often have we heard entrepreneurs in recent months saying that they'd like to hire more people, but with the uncertainty of ObamaCare and so much else coming out of Washington, they're sitting on their capital? And who can blame them.

So the answer is, get out of their way and let them do what they do best. But that's not the Obama way. This "community organizer" -- who organized people to demand more from government -- seems to have no grasp of how economies work, beyond the failed command-and-control model. **Even Fidel Castro has just now admitted** that a government run economy doesn't work. So either Obama smells the coffee coming now even from Cuba, or elections will take care of the matter.

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