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Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: David Mark

Is Paul Ryan a good VP choice?

David Boaz Executive VP, Cato Institute :

This choice makes Romney look bolder than people expected - a young intellectual instead of the staid establishment types that pundits were predicting. This helps to draw the ideological battle lines more clearly for the upcoming election. Ryan and his family bring the youth and good looks of Sarah Palin, with real substance. Tea partiers and budget hawks will appreciate that the selection of Ryan seems to indicate that Romney will be serious about bringing federal spending under control.

Of course, some fiscal conservatives will note that Ryan voted for No Child Left Behind, the Medicare prescription drug entitlement, the Iraq war, and TARP, so he played a role in the development of our trillion-dollar deficits. But fiscal conservatives will prefer a born-again deficit hawk to a team that thinks the problem with George W. Bush is that he didn't spend enough.