

Post-Bulletin

IF IT MATTERS TO YOU, IT MATTERS TO US

Sequester 'cuts' barely slow government's growth

By: Mark Schroeder – March 13, 2013

Let's go to McDonald's to understand what really happened with the sequestration cuts.

If the federal budget is a Big Mac Extra Value Meal with 1,320 calories, we can wolf down the whole Big Mac and soda with no constraint. When it comes to the 87 French fries, however, we must be judicious and only eat 85.5 of them because of the so-called draconian cutbacks.

This illustration, compliments of Dan Mitchell of The Cato Institute, is even more graphic when realizing that a short six years ago the federal budget would have been compared to a double cheeseburger, small fry and small drink. The budget has increased a whopping 40 percent in six short years!

I did say budget, but we have to be honest: There is no federal budget. The Democrats in the Senate have gone more than 1,400 days without one, and President Barack Obama has failed to get a single vote on his budget submissions. Every household and business knows that when spending exceeds income, there must be cutbacks and some sacrifices made.

Eugene Robinson has argued in the P-B that, because of Obama's popularity, the public will blame the GOP for any pain caused by the sequester. He may be right, but that is unfortunate because the Republican House has offered budgets and prioritizing bills, whereas Obama has only offered an utterly false storyline. I think it is outrageous Obama has threatened to veto any bill that would grant him authority to prioritize cuts, removing any responsibility from his office, apparently strategizing to beat the Republicans in the blame game with a measure he came up with!

Leading up to the sequester, the Obama administration blamed Congress, warned of drastic cutbacks in services and called for a balanced approach. Missing in this false narrative is the idea of sequestration originated with and was signed off by the White House. It ignores bureaucratic fat.

Ironically, the \$85 billion sequester is only about 10 percent of what Congressional Democrats and President Obama spent and wasted in the so-called stimulus.

Budget cuts? Sorry, wrong term. The sequester is actually a reduction in the rate of future spending! A meager 2 percent reduction of a bloated Extra Value Meal. Just a french fry or two.

Perhaps we should have one of these sequestration's every other month!