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Morning Bits

By: Jennifer Rubin – March 25, 2013

National Review or the New York Times? “After an all-night debate that ended just before 5 a.m., the Senate on Saturday adopted its first budget in four years, a \$3.7 trillion blueprint for 2014 that would provide a fast track for passage of tax increases, trim spending modestly and leave the government still deeply in the red a decade from now.”

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) or Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)? “The main thing I’ve said is not to legalize [drugs] but not to incarcerate people for extended periods of time. So, I’m working with Senator Leahy. We have a bill on mandatory minimums. There are people in jail for 37, 50, 45 years for nonviolent crimes. And that’s a huge mistake. Or prisons are full of nonviolent criminals. . . . Look, the last two presidents could conceivably have been put in jail for their drug use, and I really think, you know, look what would have happened, it would have ruined their lives.”

The Weekly Standard or the Atlantic? “Ever wonder why Republicans seem to beat Democrats off the blocks in defining the terms of so many public debates on issues from spending to healthcare? In part, it’s because of the army of analysts employed by the Heritage Foundation, American Enterprise Institute, and Cato Institute.”

Hillary Clinton or Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio)? “LGBT Americans are our colleagues, our teachers, our soldiers, our friends, our loved ones, and they are full and equal citizens and deserve the rights of citizenship. That includes gay marriage.”

Ralph Reed or David Brooks? “And that if, instead of arguing about gay marriage. . . we actually got together and said, ‘How can we figure out ways of strengthening the family? How can we figure out what economic forces are ripping the family apart?’ we could have a much more constructive conversation in the country.”

Larry Sabato or Karl Rove? “The Democratic Party has moved in various directions, mainly to the left, since 2008. But she’s been frozen in place. So naturally she’s behind the curve of an [Gov. Martin] O’Malley or a [Andrew] Cuomo.”

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) or Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)? Obamacare’s medical device tax “is a burden on medical device businesses but, most importantly, it is a disincentive for jobs. It stifles innovation, and it makes it more difficult for the next generation of lifesaving devices to make it to the market.”