

Budget deal was 98 percent of what the tea party faithful did not want | The News-Sentinel - Fort Wayne IN

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With the Budget Cave-in Act, House Speaker John Boehner and his sidekick, Eric Cantor, claimed they cut a great deal. They said they got 98 percent of what they wanted, and the United States wouldn't default and jeopardize its AAA credit rating.

Boehner and Cantor did, in fact, get 98 percent of everything they wanted. Most important to them was making it a fait accompli that massive tax increases will greet America on Jan. 1, 2013, and the other tax increases that will come from the newly created Super Congress.

I suppose Boehner and Cantor would have felt they got 100 percent if they had been able to kick Phyllis Schlafly, burn down the Cato Institute and erect a 400-foot statue of Arlen Specter on the National Mall. However, the tea party got negative 98 percent.

We were told this deal was necessary to maintain our nation's short-term financial health. It turned out to be the opposite. Understanding that Washington had punted on its debt problem, Standard & Poor's rating agency simply couldn't keep a straight face on the AAA rating it had given the United States.

But why would S&P downgrade U.S. debt when Congress just opened another massive line of credit? The answer depends on whom you ask. Liberals and their spokesmen, the mainstream media, blame the downgrade on the tea party. The reason? Because House GOP leaders had to maintain the appearance of holding out for concessions to please tea partiers before their preordained cave-in, and this was the reason the U.S. was downgraded.

So what are the outrageous things the tea party members want? First and foremost, they want the nation to live within its means. They want the nation to be prudent and responsible, slash governmental waste and pay off debt instead of adding to it. In short, they want the government to behave like responsible adults. In liberal spin, this constitutes a grave danger to the Republic's economic health.

Who ran up all this debt – the tea party or the Washington politicians? Who thinks it is wise to commit to spending obligations we can never make, or debt we can never repay? Who thought they could kick this snowballing disaster down the road again and use spin to hoodwink the public into thinking Washington had done something about the debt? It wasn't the tea party.

For liberals to accuse the tea party of being to blame for the U.S. losing its AAA rating is like a drunken driver with a blood-alcohol content of 4.0 blaming his car accident on Mothers Against Drunk Driving. It's like MC Hammer blaming his bankruptcy on Dave Ramsey. It's like a meth addict blaming Nancy Reagan for his habit. This is typical Washington, somewhere between bizarre and surreal.

For any addict to recover, he must first recognize he has a problem. With an enabler like the mainstream media, it may take Washington a long time to sober up.

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