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Answer for reducing national debt: spend less

Jim Brown - OneNewsNow - 3/9/2010 6:20:00 AM [ADD THIS](#)

A budget analyst warns that a new government commission on how to reduce the national debt may be used by President Obama as "cover for a tax increase."



President Obama has created the 18-member National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and directed it to issue a final report by December 1 -- after the November midterm elections. However, House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) believes the deficit commission should issue its final recommendations by October 1 -- before Election Day.



Tad DeHaven, a budget analyst at the [Cato Institute](#), feels the deficit commission is focused on the wrong issue.

"Deficits are a symptom of the problem, the problem being too much spending; and what the administration wants is cover for a tax increase -- we'll get the permanent tax increase and then we'll get the tinkering on the spending side. That's not what we need," DeHaven contends.

"What we need is less spending," he continues. "According to the president's budgets, we're going to have a [budget] that's around 24, 25 percent of the economy -- traditionally it's been around 19, 20 percent. So you're looking at a permanent enlargement of the state at the expense of the private sector."

The number-three Republican in the House recently echoed DeHaven's sentiments. Indiana Congressman Mike Pence asked, "If they are not going to rule out a tax increase and not deal with discretionary spending, and wait until after the election to give their report, what's the point?"

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