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Analyst: New committee indicates 'Congress can't do its job'

Chris Woodward - OneNewsNow - 8/17/2011 4:15:00 AM 

A budget analyst isn't impressed with the Capitol Hill lawmakers assigned to find another \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts over ten years.

The so-called "super committee" consists of 12 lawmakers -- some representatives, others senators. Only one of them, Democratic Senator Patty Murray of Washington, is female, and none are freshman lawmakers. Regardless, Tad DeHaven of the [Cato Institute](#) says it is merely another committee chosen to do the job of Congress.



"Just looking at a lot of the names on that list, they're not the types of people that I want to have so much power and control over this decision-making process," he admits. "It was another example of kicking the can down the road." And he adds that "this epitomizes what a broken situation we have in Washington."

Meanwhile, as some people say the committee may not even be constitutional, DeHaven says, "I'm not a constitutional scholar, but that certainly makes sense to me. I mean, my goodness, Congress can't do its job."

The budget analyst believes this ultimately boils down to politics, and he points out that both parties are posturing for votes as they head into another election.

Joining Senator Murray on the Democrats' side of the committee are Senators Max Baucus of Montana and John Kerry of Massachusetts, as well as Representatives James Clyburn of South Carolina, Xavier Becerra of California, and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

The Republican side is composed of Senators John Kyl of Arizona, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, and Rob Portman of Ohio, as well as Representatives Jeb Hensarling of Texas, and Dave Camp and Fred Upton of Michigan.