

FREEDOM LINE BLOG: Boehner Already Softening on Debt Ceiling Sell-Out

In a commentary published earlier this week, I chastised Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell for...



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On the Debt Limit Showdown:

"Whether or not he accepts this reality, Obama owns this economy and the alarming explosion of the debt in recent years. He is the one whose reckless policies have greatly exacerbated our dire financial condition. He is the one whose unconscionably wasteful and irresponsible economic policies have tanked the economy and suppressed employment. He is the one who, along with his party, has not presented a budget in 800 days. He is the one who formed a bipartisan deficit commission and then ignored its findings. He is the one who hasn't presented a concrete budgetary plan. He is the one who refuses to reform entitlements despite objective evidence that if we don't, the nation will go belly up. Yet he is the one who is pointing all the fingers of blame against the Republicans as if they were the culprits."

— David Limbaugh, Author and Syndicated Columnist

Posted July 15, 2011 • 12:42 pm

On President Obama's Bait-and-Switch Strategy in the Debt Ceiling Negotiations:

"The president is now calling for a 'big' deal that would reduce the debt by \$4 trillion over ten years, while we'll borrow more than a third of that this year. In fact, over those ten years, we are expected to run up more than \$13 trillion in new debt."

It's also important to remember that the president is not offering \$4 trillion in spending cuts. The deal he has proposed includes more than \$1 trillion in tax hikes. Another \$1 trillion is assumed savings on interest payments. Thus, what is really on the table is barely \$2 trillion in actual spending reductions. What the president is really offering is closer to \$2 in spending reductions for every \$1 in tax hikes, not the 4:1 ratio reported by the media. Moreover, that is over ten years, meaning the cuts would actually be just \$200 billion per year. We will pay more than that this year in interest on what we have already borrowed."

— Michael Tanner, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute

Posted July 14, 2011 • 13:38 pm

On the Media Narrative Regarding the Budget Talks:

"This is the 'nonpartisan' Washington narrative of the budget talks: Reasonable Obama vs. Dangerously Unhinged Republicans. The establishment is imbibing deeply of the David Plouffe spin that somehow, a reckless, unsupervised Congress spent all the money and Barack Obama was too busy golfing to notice, as if he didn't sign every spending bill. It's as if he didn't aggressively shovel Obamacare and almost a trillion dollars of 'stimulus' on top of the deficit mountain."

— Brent Bozell, Founder and President, Media Research Center

Posted July 13, 2011 • 12:14 pm

On the President's Plans for "Excess Income":

"It is becoming a verbal tic -- the tendency on the part of the president to tell wealthy Americans ('people like me' he's always careful to add) that they have made more than enough money and will have to cough up more of it for the government. Speaking for himself on July 11, the



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taxes. Those who live in the real world may consider the government hopelessly wasteful and inefficient. If the president really wants to get the most bang for his charity buck, he'd be far better advised to donate to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America or the Wounded Warriors Fund than to the IRS."

— **Mona Charen, Syndicated Columnist**

Posted July 12, 2011 • 11:58 am

On a Budget Agreement Containing Tax Increases to be Named Later:

"Tax increases are lurking just over the horizon. The White House hasn't made spending concessions just because the president wants to campaign as a deficit cutter next year. It has made concessions because it knows that taxes are already scheduled to go up when the Bush-era tax rates expire at the end of 2012.

"If Obama gains a second term, Congressional Republicans will have to choose between a deal that lets the top rate go back to 39 percent (a \$700 billion tax increase over 10 years) or no deal at all (a \$3.8 trillion tax increase). Obviously, this dilemma won't exist if President Mitt Romney occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But Obama's re-election is the more likely scenario, meaning that any deal struck this summer comes with a very large asterisk attached: "Includes tax increases to be named later."

— **Ross Douthat, The New York Times**

Posted July 11, 2011 • 11:57 am

On Paying Down the National Debt and Future Fiscal Responsibility:

"We don't need new taxes. We need new taxpayers, people that are gainfully employed, making money and paying into the tax system. Then we need a government that has the discipline to take that additional revenue and use it to pay down the debt and never grow it again."

— **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)**

Posted July 08, 2011 • 07:57 am

On Illegal Immigration Liberal Illogic:

"Why does the present administration oppose new anti-illegal-immigration laws in Arizona and Georgia that are designed to enhance existing federal law — but not so-called 'sanctuary city' statutes that in some municipalities deliberately contravene federal immigration law?"

"The old liberal ideal of a racially blind, melting-pot society where the law is applied equally across the board has descended into the new postmodern practice of enforcing many laws only selectively — and based entirely on politics, matters of race, ethnic chauvinism, and national origin.

"In sum, yesterday's immigration liberals have become today's illiberals."

— **Victor Davis Hanson, Hoover Institution Senior Fellow and Nationally Syndicated Columnist**

Posted July 07, 2011 • 08:28 am

On the Cost to Taxpayers of Jobs "Created or Saved":

"On the Friday of the July 4th weekend, obviously hoping that few would notice, President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers released a report on the effects of the \$800 billion-plus American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Keynesian stimulus that the president claims saved America from a second Great Depression.

"The CEA report concluded 'that as of the first quarter of 2011, the ARRA has raised employment relative to what it otherwise would have been by between 2.4 million and 3.6 million.' The Weekly Standard did the math and pointed out that that amounts to 'a cost to taxpayers of \$278,000 per job.' Early in the Obama administration, the CEA said that about \$92,000 in government spending would create one job for one year.

"But it's likely the real cost is far higher than the Standard reckoned. ..."

— **The Editors, Investor's Business Daily**

Posted July 06, 2011 • 08:12 am

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"Don't any of you guys vote Republican," Vice President Biden said to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters convention in Las Vegas last week. 'Let me put it this way: Don't come to me if you do. You're on your own, Jack!'

"Biden's warning, which received virtually no coverage in the press, is part of the Obama re-election campaign's 2012 strategy for organized labor. It's a two-part plan. One, use the president's executive powers to give labor all sorts of advantages that can't be achieved through legislation. And two, when labor leaders complain that they haven't gotten everything they want, tell them they have nowhere else to go."

—Byron York, Washington Examiner Chief Political Correspondent

Posted July 05, 2011 • 07:57 am

On Declaring Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ...

"We, therefore ... do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States ...

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

—The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America, In Congress, July 4, 1776

Posted July 01, 2011 • 07:01 am

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Question of the Week

Which one of the following U.S. Presidents holds the record for taking the most foreign trips during his first year in office?

- a. George H.W. Bush
- b. George W. Bush
- c. Richard M. Nixon
- d. Barack H. Obama

[More Questions](#)

Quote of the Day

"Whether or not he accepts this reality, Obama owns this economy and the alarming explosion of the debt in recent years. He is the one whose reckless policies have greatly exacerbated our dire financial condition. He is the one whose unconscionably wasteful and irresponsible economic policies have tanked the economy and suppressed employment. He is the one who, along with his party, has not presented...[more]

—David Limbaugh, Author and Syndicated Columnist

Liberty Poll

Which Republican's position on raising the debt ceiling is closest to your own?

- House Speaker John Boehner
- House Majority Leader Eric Cantor
- Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
- Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney
- Presidential Candidate Michele Bachmann

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