

Compromise Is Indeed A Dirty Word

If you believe Democrats and the mainstream media, the sequester cuts will bring the world to an end on March 1. Apparently a government that spends \$3.7 trillion per year cannot possibly do with \$85 billion less. But where Obama, immediately after the election, held the upper hand on the issue of taxes, the Republicans now hold the upper hand on the issue of spending cuts. Had the Republicans not agreed to higher taxes on high-income Americans, income taxes would have gone up for all Americans because the Bush rates were set to automatically expire on January 1.

But the proverbial shoe is now on the other foot, and Obama faces the automatic budget cuts that he himself demanded in the 2011 debt ceiling negotiations. Those cuts impact defense spending and other spending, and Obama assumed that he could extract additional tax hikes from Republicans who he believed would never allow defense cuts to be implemented. He was wrong, as it looks like a substantial number of Republicans are willing to now draw a line in the sand and tell Obama to pound that sand if he expects additional tax hikes.

The reality is that cutting \$85 billion would hardly be catastrophic, and that amount represents only a small fraction of the \$1+ trillion deficit the government will rack up this year. Cutting \$85 billion out of a \$3.7 trillion budget is like asking a family that spends \$37,000 per year to “slash” that spending by a mere \$850. To make the comparison more accurate, the family’s annual income is only \$26,000 and it charges \$11,000 per year on its credit cards.

Obama, his fellow Democrats, and media leftists will howl from now until March 1 that the sequester cuts will force closings of hospitals, cause national parks to be shut down, end federal inspection of meat and drugs, and leave airports without air traffic controllers. That is the game they always play, frightening the voters in order to get them to contact Senators and Congressmen and demand that no spending be cut at all. *Do not believe them.* If Obama can’t cut spending by \$85 billion without anyone even noticing it was done, he does not deserve his job. If Obama chooses to implement the cuts so that, solely for political purposes, as many people are harmed as possible, he deserves to be impeached.

Obama and the Democrats will certainly offer to “compromise” in an effort to avoid cutting any spending. That compromise will involve again raising taxes and cutting virtually no spending. But now is not the time for compromise. A compromise can, of course, make sense on issues that do *not* involve firm principles. A Chicago family on a limited budget that cannot afford to fly to Disney World for two weeks but does not want to do without a summer vacation may compromise and drive to the Wisconsin Dells for one week of water park fun. But if that family is drowning in debt it is *not* the time for compromise. It is time to bite the bullet, cancel all vacation plans, and hold a garage sale to raise some money to pay off some of its debt.

Leftists play the game of compromise all the time. It is their method for getting what they want even if it means getting it only gradually. Leftists are an evil but patient sort. To them, the end *always* justifies the means, even if the means is immoral or illegal. If it takes decades to establish their socialist state, they will follow a plan to do so:

The Democrats say $2+2=10$. The Republicans say $2+2=4$. The Democrats—and their willing media accomplices—insist on compromise. The result is legislation declaring that $2+2=5$. Some time later the Democrats come back and again push for $2+2=10$. After the inevitable compromise, $2+2=6$. In the next legislative session, $2+2$ suddenly equals 7.

This continues until the Democrats get what they want: $2+2=10$.

This incremental method is playing out now on the issue of gun control. First only some weapons are banned, and the citizens comply. Then more weapons are banned, and the citizens comply. Universal registration is demanded, and the citizens comply. Finally, all guns are ordered turned in and most citizens comply. Those who do not are arrested and jailed—their identities and addresses having conveniently been gathered during the registration process. A few diehards in rural areas hide their shotguns in the woodpile—but they soon learn that ammunition can no longer be purchased. What was once a beloved republic becomes a socialist state—in which only the government and hardcore criminals have guns.

Compromise is *never* legitimate in matters of principle and reality. One does not compromise on principles, or they are no longer principles. One does not compromise on reality, or reality becomes meaningless and eventually “anything goes” in society. That, of course, is what the leftists want—because societal collapse makes it easier to take control and impose socialism. (Desperate people will accept anything, as Germany demonstrated in the 1930s.)

Obama and his fellow leftists are now pushing the envelope as much as they can. They believe they can get away with almost anything. They are mistaken. *Now is the time to draw a line in the sand.* The Republicans must declare that $2+2$ indeed does equal only 4. They must insist on significant spending cuts and accept no additional tax increases. Conservatives must aggressively work to defeat those Republicans in Name Only (RINOs) who routinely demonstrate that they are willing to compromise and sell their souls to the devil for power.

One real life example of such ill-advised compromise is with minimum wage laws, which should be ended altogether because they prevent the free exchange of labor for profit and, even worse, they prevent unskilled persons from entering the workforce. Being unemployed at \$10.00 per hour is certainly not better than being employed at \$7.25 per hour—yet the leftists routinely call for an increase in the minimum wage. Regrettably, the RINOs go along with it by compromising and accepting a middle-ground rate. The Democrats demand \$10 per hour, for example, and the GOP caves in and accepts a \$9 rate. The result is price increases across the nation and higher unemployment among unskilled laborers.

Worse yet, the wage hike gives the government even more tax revenue to waste. Further, the GOP does not win anything anyway by compromising. You do not win elections by becoming “the party of somewhat less free stuff than the other party.” You win elections by explaining reality and by outlining plans and policies that responsibly follow reality. Republicans do not need to become “Democrat-lite” politicians. They need to explain every issue in simple terms so that the low-information voters (i.e., Democrats) can begin to learn about reality.

This often involves a “reductio ad absurdum” argument. Ask people, “What would happen if the minimum wage were increased to \$150 per hour?” Virtually everyone would have the proper answer: “Prices would go up nationwide as employers passed on the higher costs of labor; every extra dime you make would go toward those higher prices; you’d actually be no better off than you were before; and a lot of people at the bottom of the employment pyramid would lose their jobs or their ability to find one.” That answer is obvious to all but the most ignorant person.

Now change your question to, “What would happen if the minimum wage were increased to ‘only’ \$100 per hour?” The answer would be the same. The *degree* of damage would be less, but it would still be the same *kind* of damage.

You have now won the argument because you have demonstrated the principle that raising the minimum wage causes higher prices and higher unemployment. It is like the old story about the woman who, asked if she would sleep with a man for \$100, insists, “I am not a prostitute,” but admits that she would do so for \$1 million. Thus, she *is* a prostitute, and the haggling is only over her price.

The Democrats are the “Johns” seeking power and control over others. Conservatives are the virtuous souls who refuse to sell out their principles. RINOs are those who haggle over the price.

Hold firm, conservatives. Don’t allow the RINOs to spread their legs, bend over, or kneel down for Obama.

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