

GOP's Goody-Filled Budget Was A Big Victory — For Democrats

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12/18/2015 07:01 PM ET

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Ryan, acting like a bearded Boehner, explains a spending bill constituents hated but his caucus approved anyway. View Enlarged Image

Fiscal Policy: "This is what's wrong with the Washington Cartel," Ted Cruz said of a budget deal that "betrays the promises we made to the men and women who elected us." He took the words right out of our mouth.

The Texas senator and presidential candidate was referring to the 2,000-page omnibus spending package supported by no fewer than 150 House Republicans.

That's 55 more Republicans than those who refused to approve one of the worst budget-busters in modern times — a \$1.1 trillion grab bag of favors and golden nuggets for lobbyists and special interests.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the aisle, Democrats couldn't be happier. Nearly 90% of Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's caucus voted thumbs-up, and President Obama will triumphantly sign the measure into law.

Gee, we wonder which side won this time?

Republicans have been seething for months about Obama's use of executive actions to end-run Congress on issues including health care, immigration, climate change, labor law and EPA regulations. But the spending bill that nearly two of three Republicans voted for gives Obama a green light on virtually all the White House's dictates.

Even climate change funding was approved, giving billions to the United Nations and corrupt Third World governments in the form of global warming bribes and reparations. Republicans had promised voters they would block such measures if they controlled the House and Senate.

The congressional power of the purse was fully surrendered to the White House. And it's not as if this Congress is up against a president with the popularity of FDR. Obama's approval ratings on the economy and national security are underwater.

Republicans who voted for this travesty are living in a Beltway bubble and could

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be in for a rude awakening when they get home and mix with constituents during Christmas break.

Which brings us to Paul Ryan. We like the GOP's new House speaker because he's a pro-growth reformer. We have high hopes for his speakership. But he's off to a less-than-stellar start.

His press conference Friday was filled with spin and cheerleading for a spending plan that his own party's voters detest. He boasted about "big wins for the American people and job creators." He insisted that the bill "reins in the IRS," "stops EPA overreach" and "blocks ObamaCare provisions."

But in reality the bill does mostly the opposite by delegating even more unchecked power to the bureaucrats and regulators.

Ryan rightly acknowledged that the budget process is broken and promised that "next year we are going to do things differently around here." But why "next year?" Why didn't Republicans do things differently this time around?

This is as delusional as the 92-year-old Cubs fan who always believes that this is the year the team will go to the World Series. Sure. If you're really committed to a diet to lose weight, you don't start by feasting on a five-scoop hot fudge sundae.

To be fair, this rotten budget product was dropped in Ryan's lap when he took over from John Boehner last month. Ryan says that next year House Republicans will "present a bold pro-growth agenda for our country" and that the GOP will do better. Let's hope so, because they could hardly do worse.

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