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BLOG BRIEFING ROOM**Gingrich says Obama 'distorting the facts' in suggesting he thought Ryan budget was radical**

By Justin Sink - 04/03/12 05:32 PM ET

Newt Gingrich blasted President Obama for "distorting the facts" when mentioning the former House Speaker in remarks criticizing House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) budget proposal Tuesday.

In wide-ranging and harshly critical remarks, the president said the Republican plan was "laughable" and "makes the Contract for America look like the New Deal."

"In fact, that renowned liberal Newt Gingrich first called the original version of the budget 'radical' and said it would contribute to right-wing social engineering," Obama said. "This is coming from Newt Gingrich... and yet this isn't a budget supported by some small group in the Republican Party, this is now the party's governing platform. This is what they're running on."

Gingrich called that comment a "distortion" in a statement released Tuesday.

"Once again the president shows just how willing he is to distort the facts to score cheap political points, and how dangerous his reelection would be for the future of this country," Gingrich said. "In fact, I have enthusiastically endorsed the House Republican budget, including the Ryan-Wyden optional premium support plan in Medicare."

Gingrich does, however, go on to acknowledge that he did not initially support Ryan's proposal last year, when he called the plan "too big a jump" and "right-wing social engineering." Gingrich later apologized for those comments and announced his endorsement for the plan, and said on Tuesday Ryan had addressed his concerns over Medicare vouchers.

"My concern over previous versions of this budget was limited to the fact that the premium support plan was mandatory rather than optional. That concern has been addressed. For the president to so blatantly distort the facts while offering no plan of his own just shows how little he is concerned with governing and solving the debt crisis enveloping this country," Gingrich said.

As Gingrich has slipped out of the top tier of Republican candidates, he has increasingly tried to pick fights with the White House in hopes of earning headlines and conservative support. Last month, Gingrich called for the firing of multiple Cabinet-level administration officials and berated White House press secretary Jay Carney after the spokesman suggested he was "lying" about his ability to drive down domestic fuel prices with increased drilling.

Source:

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