



Pitts' voting record follows GOP script

Rep. Joe Pitts, thank you for your comments in the March 3 Sunday News. We agree bipartisan efforts should be doubled on many issues. Unfortunately, some history has been forgotten.

We congratulate your early efforts with the Clinton administration to develop a surplus. But suddenly your jump to President Obama seems to neglect a critical administration period that led us from surplus to significant deficit.

Your voting record was part of this change:

1. You voted "yes" for two unfunded conflicts. These might cost at least \$1 trillion to \$2.4 trillion by 2017. This does not count the loss of many lives.
2. You voted "yes" for the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. This Medicare "modernization" prohibits the federal government from negotiating drug costs with drug companies and lets private providers choose which drugs they will cover. An overwhelming effect close to \$600 billion.
3. You voted "yes" for the Budget Control Act of 2011, the "sequester," which was originally proposed, not by President Obama (although he signed it), but by Rep. Jack Kingston (R, Ga.). This is not "his (Obama's) sequester," it belongs to all members of Congress and the American citizens who let it happen. (Unfortunately, the salaries of congressional members, the vice president or the president are not affected.)

Please explain how you, a senior statesman, forgot your voting record.

Our financial situation was not the result of poor planning of the Obama administration, but the "planning" of the previous eight years, where Vice President Dick Cheney stated, "Deficits don't matter (to the electorate)," and Republicans cheered.

Your Sunday comments are the "scripted" response from your party. It is campaigning, not sitting down to do what we elected you to do.

Please do not be bound by party rhetoric, ill-founded economic principles and, perhaps, even an "oath" to political contributors or particular lobbyists who help fund your campaigns.

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