

The 16 Stages Of Washington Coping With Sequestration

How D.C. Went From Loathing to
Loving To Loathing To Fretting About
The Cuts They Passed

EXPERIMENTATION

In July 2011, congressional Republicans and the White House were in a stand off over the debt ceiling. Speaker Boehner demanded trillions in cuts in exchange for raising the ceiling. President Obama wanted a balanced deficit reduction package. They agreed to punt the issue, but only on condition that there would be some cuts if they never reached a deal. Those cuts were sequestration: \$1.1 trillion in spending reductions over ten years.

CONTENT:

Each side says the deal is good

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August 02, 2011, 12:27 pm

Boehner: I got '98 percent' of what I wanted in debt deal

By Daniel Strauss

 495  81   69 

COMMENTS 21

CONTENT: Part II

White House Officials List Three Victories From The Debt Ceiling Deal (Huffington Post, August 29, 2011)

- Protected Medicaid, Social Security, Medicare
- Escaped hostage taking intact
- Got the President through 2012 elections

The Obama campaign and WH also routinely touts the deficit reduction the president's overseen, which includes sequestration cuts

BLAME GAME:

As the 2012 campaign hit, each party started accusing the other of shepherding in the cuts

ROLL CALL

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Barack Obama Says Sequestration 'Will Not Happen,' Hits Back on Military Spending Attacks

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By Emily Cadei
Roll Call Staff
Oct. 23, 2012, 1:04 a.m.

President Barack Obama used the final presidential debate Monday night to hit back aggressively against claims that his budget will gut the U.S. military, something the Republican Party has been using as a political cudgel against him all year.

At the same time, he raised questions about GOP nominee Mitt Romney's own plans to increase military spending, saying "the math doesn't work."

BLAME PART II: The birth of a hashtag

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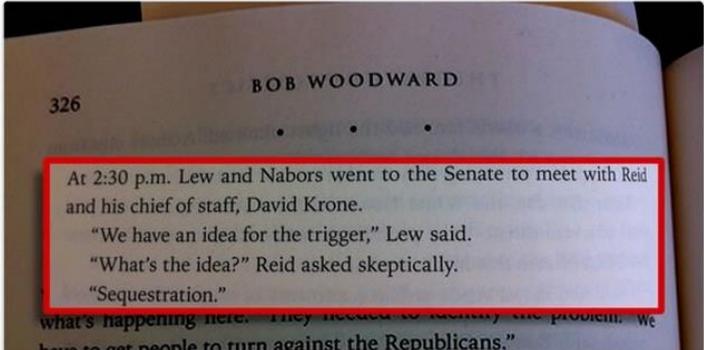


Congress White House Campaign 2014 Campaign 2016 Obamacare Archives

Republicans try to pin cuts on White House with #Obamaquester

BY NATALIE JENNINGS February 8, 2013 at 5:14 pm

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326 BOB WOODWARD

At 2:30 p.m. Lew and Nabors went to the Senate to meet with Reid and his chief of staff, David Krone.

"We have an idea for the trigger," Lew said.

"What's the idea?" Reid asked skeptically.

"Sequestration."

what's happening here. They needed to identify the problem. We have to get people to turn against the Republicans."

BLAME PART III: 2012 Campaign Edition



“It’s a strange proposal in the first place. It’s even stranger that it’s being put in place”

-- Mitt Romney, 7/27/2012

FREAK OUT:

When the cuts were about to come into effect it was “The Sky Is Falling”

Among the items the White House warned would

- happen
- Fewer food inspections
- Disruption in education programs
- Loss of nutritional assistance for 600k women and children
- Limits to mental health services
- Hundreds of thousands of furloughs
- 1,000 fewer FBI and Law enforcement agents
- Hampered emergency responders
- Major delays in science and medical research
- Less federal assistance for small businesses

ACCEPTANCE: Sequestration was not voided

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Sequestration: Senate fails in last-chance bid to avoid sequester

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Harry Reid tried to expedite matters, yet both parties' measures fell short. | POLITICO Staff

By [DAVID ROGERS](#) | 2/28/13 3:25 PM EST

On back-to-back votes Thursday, the Senate killed the last two legislative options standing between Congress and tens of billions in across-the-board spending cuts — now expected to take effect by midnight Friday.

NON-CHALLANCE: What exactly was the big deal?

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Obama to reassure allies in Asia

Plenty of questions for David Gregory



**They said the sequester would be scary.
Mostly, they were wrong.**

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By David A. Fahrenthold and Lisa Rein, Published: June 30, 2013 [E-mail the writers](#) ↩

Before “sequestration” took effect, the Obama administration issued specific — and alarming — predictions about what it would bring. There would be one-hour waits at airport security. Four-hour waits at border crossings. Prison guards would be furloughed for 12 days. FBI agents, up to 14.

MILD ANNOYANCE: Fix those pesky FAA cuts!!!

Bill to end sequester's air travel delays flies through Congress

Lawmakers, among the nation's most frequent fliers, OK a bill allowing the FAA to transfer \$253 million to stop furloughs of air traffic controllers.

April 26, 2013 | By Lisa Mascaro and Kathleen Hennessey, Washington Bureau



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WASHINGTON — Congress approved a quick fix Friday to end the flight delays snarling the nation's airports, and President Obama will sign the bill when it reaches the White House, showing how swiftly compromise can be found when powerful interests demand it.

OKAY, NON-CHALLANCE AGAIN

Why Did The Sequester Turn Into A Non-Event?

Thu, Mar 14, 2013 | by Elaine Kamarck | 23



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So much for the dire predictions. Billions in spending cuts went into effect two weeks ago, but few have noticed. President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner are pictured here walking to their closed-door budget meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. (Both photos by J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

DESPERATION: Francis Collins Sings The Blues



Literally, he sang a blues song about the sequester

DOCUMENTATION:

Reporters start noticing

Among the stories done by Huffpost Reporters

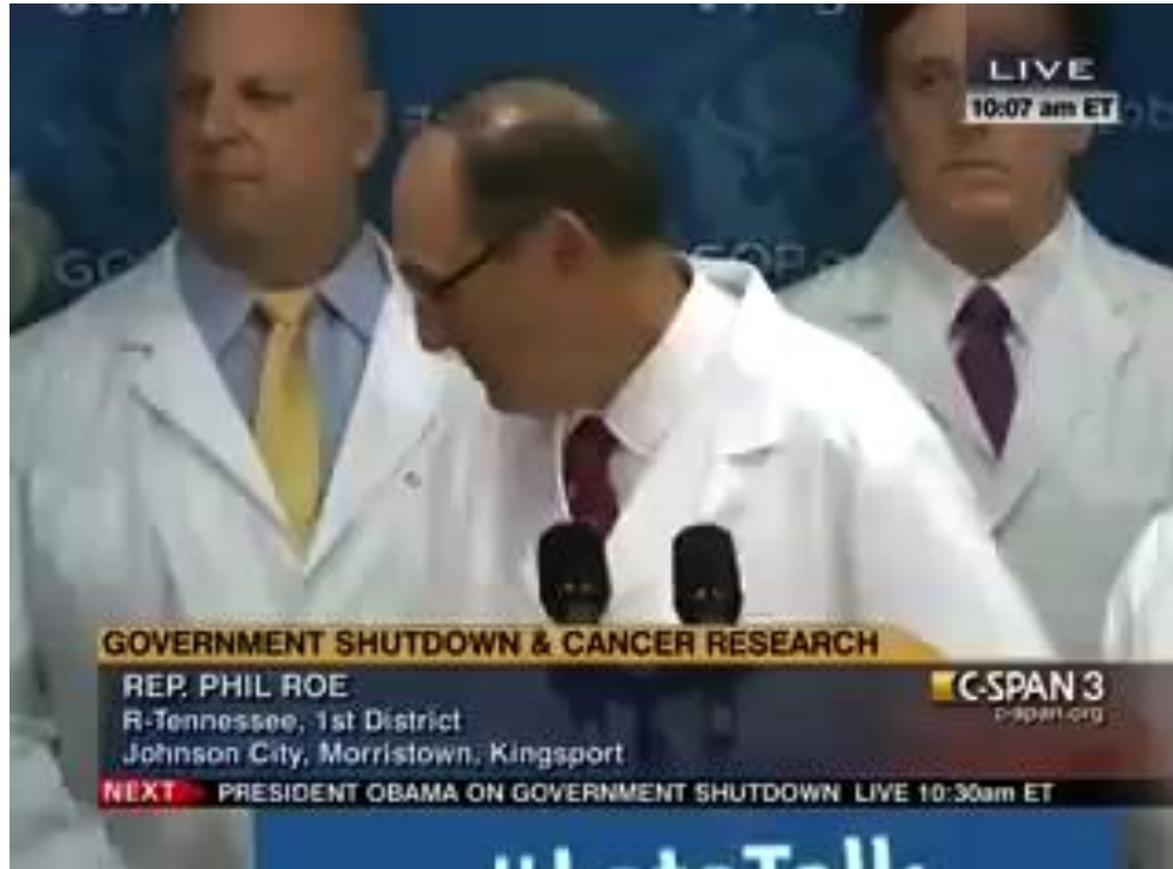
- 100 Sequestration stories from around the country (Amanda Terkel and Sam Stein 4/02/2013)
- Sequestration Pushes Head Start Families To The Precipice (Sam Stein, 7/9/2013)
- Sequestrations Biggest Victim: The Public Defender System (Sam Stein and Ryan Reilly, 7/22/2013)
- Sequestration Ushers In A Dark Age For Science In America (Sam Stein, 8/14/2013)
- NIH Director on Sequestration: 'God Help Us If We Get A Worldwide Pandemic (8/23/2013)

UH OH:

Wait, we don't like that cut

After the shut down began on October 1, members of Congress began to realize the various functions of the government that people found popular. Congressional Republicans called for funding the national monuments, food assistance for poor mothers and veterans affairs while leaving the rest of the government closed. More than anything else, however, lawmakers rallied around the NIH, with several donning lab coats to show support

UH OH, PART II: Wait, we don't like that cut



RECOGNITION

On October 17, Congress passed a bill ending the shutdown. The legislation gave lawmakers until January 15, 2014 to come up with a longer term budget deal. Democrats insisted that for any deal to pass, it would have to restore some of the sequestration cuts. And, low and behold...

REVERSAL

On December 10, 2013, lawmakers announced a deal that replaced \$63 billion in sequestration cuts

Budget deal aims to avert another shutdown

By Lisa Desjardins and Deirdre Walsh, CNN
updated 11:14 PM EST, Tue December 10, 2013



BACK-PATTING

Obama applauds congressional budget deal

THE OVAL

David Jackson, USA TODAY

7:22 a.m. EST December 11, 2013



(Photo: Associated Press)

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Don't be surprised if President Obama addresses the proposed congressional budget deal on Wednesday, and to say good things about it.

In a written statement late Tuesday, Obama called the deal "a good first step" toward a "balanced" budget approach that combines prudent cuts with investments in job-generating programs.

"This agreement doesn't include everything I'd like - and I know many Republicans feel the same way,"



RESIDUAL FEAR AND ANGER

Despite the deal, those in the science and medical research community weren't please. They noted a few data points

- NIH funding was still \$714 million below pre-sequester levels
- NIH funding was still lower than the first year President Obama was in office
- Adjusted for inflation, NIH funding was roughly around the same level as 2002: the second year of the Bush administration

RESIDUAL FEAR AND ANGER: Part II

Attendees at the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers warn about systemic brain drain in their field

"The people whose work has not been funded, they sort of disappear. Their website is gone. They don't come to the meetings, and that's the last I hear about it."

-- Dr. Andrew Goodman, an assistant professor of microbial pathogenesis at the Yale School of Medicine,

HOPEFULLNESS

On March 11, Congress actually passed NIH funding: a \$120 million/10 year deal for pediatric research

Congress Actually Passed Funding For Cancer Research Today, Here's How

Posted: 03/11/2014 1:57 pm EDT | Updated: 03/12/2014 10:59 pm EDT



HOPEFULLNESS: Part II

On April 4, a bipartisan group of lawmakers including 25 Republicans called for NIH funding to be at least \$32 billion in the next fiscal year.

"At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research."