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Republicans should “go out of business” after agreeing to pork-laden budget deal

Even Rep. Barney Frank is accusing the GOP of being big spenders!

WASHINGTON, DC — The Republican Party should hold a “Going Out Of Business” sale and shut its doors — because after agreeing to an embarrassingly bloated \$500 billion federal budget deal, the GOP has no reason to exist, the Libertarian Party said today.

“When it comes to saving money, the Republicans have shown they are out of principles, out of effective political strategies, and out of excuses,” said Steve Dasbach, the Libertarian Party’s national director. “They might as well make it official and go out of business.”

The omnibus federal spending bill — hammered out after a week of negotiations between Republicans and the Clinton administration, and expected to be approved by both houses of Congress on Tuesday — includes eight unfinished spending bills, and will cover about a third of all federal spending.

The final budget-busting agreement was such a rout for the Republicans that even ultra-liberal Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) publicly mocked them for being big spenders.

At a White House gloat-fest last week, Frank said that “people who voted Republican in ’95 could probably bring a bait-and-switch suit against the GOP for pork barreling.”

Libertarians agreed, noting that the final bill is expected to include:

■ **Millions in special interest giveaways for Russians and North Koreans.** “It’s Christmas in Washington, and foreigners are getting the biggest presents,” said Dasbach. “Congress approved \$300 million so Russians can buy frozen chickens and \$35 million to buy heavy fuel oil from the North Koreans.”

■ **Double-digit budget increases for federal agencies Republicans promised four years ago to abolish.** “The Department of Education’s budget jumped by 11% and the Department of Health & Human Services got a 10% increase in discretionary spending,” he said. “Are Republicans planning to kill these agencies by burying them in money?”

■ **About \$8.5 billion in “emergency” aid to farmers.** “Two years ago, the Republicans passed their Freedom To Farm Act, which was supposed to wean farmers off Depression-era government subsidies,” noted Dasbach. “Now, farmers are getting more money than they did before that so-called reform was passed.”

The bottom line, said Dasbach: The 1998 budget deal proves that you can’t trust the GOP to cut federal spending. “If they couldn’t do it in 1998, they *never* will,” he said. “If they can’t even win a budget battle with a president who is an admitted liar and is weakened by scandal, when can they win? Republican politicians are giving craven capitulation a bad name — and should go out of business before they cost American taxpayers more money.”