

APPROPRIATIONS ALERT

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APPROPRIATIONS STATUS WHEN \$21 BILLION = \$204 BILLION

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Having set up a fiscal showdown with the White House, Democratic leaders continue to lowball their real differences with the President in annually appropriated (discretionary) spending levels. What they call a “mere 2-percent” increase over the President (\$21.2 billion) actually translates to *\$204 billion* when extended over the next 5 years. *That’s the number Members should remember* – and it’s the amount of increase taxpayers will have to pay for.

With that, here is a summary of key points in the looming budgetary confrontation:

- **Today’s Spending Continues Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow.** The Democrats’ \$21-billion boost is only their first-year (2008) increase over the President. That figure gets *permanently* built into government spending, *and then keeps growing*. In a few years – as the late Senator Dirksen might say – it does add up to real money: to a total of \$204 billion by 2012 (see chart below).
- **There’s a Reason for the ‘Tax-and-Spend’ Label.** The 5-year Democratic budget plan – which includes at least the second-largest tax hike in history – increases total 2008 discretionary spending by 9 percent, triple the inflation rate, compared with 2007. This includes a \$26-billion increase for domestic programs. Thus the Democrats are reclaiming their tax-and-spend brand the old-fashioned way: they’re *earning* it.
- **Welcome to the Democrats’ First Fiscal Year.** As everyone knows, fiscal year 2008 – the first for which the new Democratic majority are wholly accountable – started three weeks ago (on 1 October) without even one annual spending bill having been sent to the President. The temporary stopgap spending bill now in place runs out on 16 November 2007 – but at the rate they are going, the Democrats could easily drag out the budget duel until well past Thanksgiving.
- **The Coming Train Wreck is Intentional.** Clearly, the looming budgetary collision is a *deliberate choice* of the Democratic majority. They are attempting to pressure the President into accepting their higher spending. The victims, as usual, will be the taxpayers.

