



He Gets the Games Washington Plays

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By: Thomas Duda

Yesterday's *Washington Post* had [a fascinating article](#) about the only-in-Washington logic behind a recent agreement to keep the federal government ~~spending~~ operating. The article, "Budget deal: CBO analysis shows initial spending cuts less than expected," explains that the "advertised" \$38 *billion* cut in federal spending agreed to by Congress only translates to a \$352 *million* reduction in spending for this fiscal year.

To explain the disparity between advertised and actual savings, the reporter turned to none other than Brian Riedl, [lead budget analyst for the Heritage Foundation](#) and [upcoming Show-Me Institute speaker](#) . Riedl explained:

"It's kind of like a parent saying, 'If you go buy something, I'll pay the credit card for you.' And then the kid never goes out and buys it."

As much as \$18 billion of the \$38 billion budget cut comes from rescinding previously approved funding allocations for completed projects that came in under budget. In other words, it's money that was and will never be spent.

For more insight into Washington's fiscal mess and the games that Congress is playing with the American people, consider attending the seventh installment of the economic policy speaker

series cosponsored by the Show-Me Institute, Saint Louis University's John Cook School of Business, and the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation. [On Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m., Brian Riedl will present a talk, "What Washington Won't Tell You About the Next Economic Crisis."](#) The event is free and open to the public, and [you can register online](#) .

About the Author



Thomas Duda

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Advancing liberty with responsibility by promoting market solutions for Missouri public policy.

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