A sap for having faith in hope, change pledge

DAVID BROOKS says the president has abandoned the Reasonable Man approach to governing and reverted to the politics-as-usual approach.

It's a sap, a specific kind of sap, i.e., Obama Sap.

When the president said and the unemployed can't wait 14 more months for help and we had to do something, he was referring to administration officials who called saying that the possibility of a double-dip recession became overwhelming and that it would be irresponsible not to come up with a package to put cash in people's pockets. I believe him.

So the president had to be careful. Like the Obama travel tax cut idea a few months ago, I suspect he knew that if he had proposed a tax cut on $800 billion, he would have been dead wrong.

There is a big difference between the president's fiscal approach and the Republican approach.

The Republicans have never had a comprehensive plan to cut taxes and discretionary spending and they have not even been able to agree on a strategy that would allow a peace agreement given the internal political constraints.

The Palestinian recognition as a "state" through a Security Council resolution, which the United Nations in a dramatic vote late last year, gives the Palestinians the legitimacy to Washington. He can put forth a strategic plan to push forward peace negotiations.

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