

Congressman Pence, the chairman of the House Republican Conference, recently led House Republicans on a weekend retreat to discuss the goals of the party going forward.

As covered by the media who was allowed unprecedented access to the meetings and panel discussions, a couple things were clear:

Firstly, Republicans are confident that the principles of fiscal discipline and limited government are touchstones of the GOP and will resonate well with the American people ( [Roll Call - "No Identity Crisis Here"](#) )

*GOP Conference Chairman Mike Pence (Ind.) said the forward-looking approach to the retreat was by design.*

*"It was very intentional that this retreat is about the future. Some of us spent a lot of time in the last eight years saying things would go a certain way if Republicans didn't stick to our principles, but those arguments are over," Pence said.*

*Pence said that as the Republican Party emerges from under the cloud of unpopular former President George W. Bush, its ideas will become clearer and voters will respond favorably.*

And secondly, Republicans will stand on the side of the American taxpayer, even if House Democrats will not ( [The Hill - "GOP losing patience with Obama, Dem leaders"](#) )

*Republicans wrapped up their retreat Friday by signaling they are losing patience with President Obama and the Democratic leadership in Congress.*

*Former Gov. Mitt Romney (R-Mass.) criticized the new administration on Friday, saying it had promised to reach out to Republicans on the Capitol Hill, but then offered an economic recovery package that included few, if any, proposals from the minority party. Romney, who helped write the House Republican substitute voted down Wednesday afternoon, said enough of the rhetoric, it's time for Obama to act.*

*"Meeting with someone is not negotiating, meeting with someone to say 'here's my plan, take it or leave it,' that is not negotiating, that is not reaching out," Romney told reporters after his*

*lunchtime speech.*