

Budget debate to preview fall campaign

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Next month's budget debate in the Senate will likely shape the U.S. presidential campaign, political analysts said. The Politico reported Thursday that lawmakers' spending decisions will likely set the stage for the general election presidential campaign. Lawmakers will consider such things as whether President George W. Bush's tax cuts should be extended -- a debate that will draw sharp lines between Democratic Sens. Hillary Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois, and Arizona Sen. John McCain, the presumptive GOP nominee. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a McCain policy adviser who previously served as director of the Congressional Budget Office, told Politico the Democratic presidential hopefuls simply cannot say they oppose the Bush tax cuts when the Senate begins budget discussions March 10. "The Democrats are going to have to put out some specifics," Holtz-Eakin was quoted as saying. "It is a vision that their candidates have embraced -- more taxes and spending -- so we are eager to see the details."

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