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## THE METHOD TO FRANÇOIS BAYROU'S MADNESS

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By staking out such a maximalist position on the budget, the French PM may be giving himself room to negotiate a deal in the fall.

Prime Minister François Bayrou appeared to be signing his own political death warrant when he told the French this week that he would take away their holidays, freeze their welfare and cut billions from their health care.

Right on cue, the far-right National Rally of Marine Le Pen and hard-left France Unbowed of Jean-Luc Mélenchon fulminated that it was time to topple Bayrou because of his plan to squeeze the budget by an eye-watering €43.8 billion.

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