

The Delray Democrat

It's a Clown Show, but There's Nothing Funny About It¹

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Immune to serial humiliations and grinning like a clown, Kevin McCarthy pounded the gavel that it took him 15 ballots and 5 days to secure. Showing that the universe can sometimes have a dark sense of humor, his “victory” occurred on the second anniversary of the attempted overthrow of the American government.

Now a man who is destined to be remembered as the worst Speaker in modern American history is nominally in charge of the House. Of course, he is just a puppet being manipulated by the election deniers and insurrectionists who constitute the Orwellian-titled “Freedom Caucus.” Their nihilism, recklessness, and hypocrisy knows no bounds.

McCarthy's desperate attempts to appease them will ensure that the clown show is renewed for another season, but anyone who is laughing is not paying attention. There is nothing funny about the Republican threat to cause the first government default in American history unless Democrats cave to their demands for “spending cuts of unspecified magnitude.”

Last month, Moody's estimated that a protracted shutdown could cause a four percent drop in GDP, a nine percent unemployment, and a \$15 trillion loss in household wealth. That Republicans are prepared to cause such chaos and suffering reveals recklessness bordering on nihilism.

And their attempt to defend such a course of action is not only absurd but exposes their serial hypocrisy. Their insistence that drastic action is needed to get America's fiscal house in order occurs only when the Oval Office is occupied by a Democrat. They were silent when Ronald Reagan was tripling the federal debt and when George W. Bush was doubling it and when Donald Trump was adding as much to it in his 4 years as Barrack Obama did in his 8.

Instead of using their majority to work for the American people, Republicans are going to spend it threatening to blow up the world economy unless their demands to gut Social Security and Medicare are met; making bootless demands of the DOJ, tormenting the hapless Hunter Biden; and investigating what they call the “weaponization of the federal government” but is really nothing more than government officials doing their duty to call insurrectionists and traitors to account.

Republicans ludicrously claim their Subcommittee on the Weaponization of Government is modeled on the respected Church Committee of the 1970s. It's actually more like the infamous House Un-American Committee of the 1950s.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, January 2023, page 1.

It's worth revisiting how Paul Robeson ended *his* [testimony](#) before the original HUAC, denouncing its members in words as true today as then: ***“You are the un-Americans, and you ought to be ashamed of yourselves.”*** Unfortunately, as they lack even a shred of honor, Republicans today are incapable of shame.