

Deadbeat Dave

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 10.14.21

Imagine you went to a restaurant, ate dinner, and didn't pay. That's what [Rep. David Rouzer and every Republican in Congress](#) did when they refused to raise the debt ceiling. [Republicans think they can fool you into blaming Democrats](#) if the government doesn't pay for what it bought under the Trump administration.

In 1917, Congress created "[America's credit card](#)." It [allows the government to pay its bills](#), up to a limit, called the debt ceiling. Our economy would tank if the government welched on its debts, so Congress made a rule that [automatically raises the debt ceiling whenever a new budget is passed](#).

In 1995, Speaker Newt Gingrich's Republican Congress repealed that rule and used the [debt ceiling as a weapon against President Clinton](#). [Republicans' refusal to raise the debt ceiling led to two government shutdowns](#). More than [800,000 federal workers were furloughed](#), disrupting the economy and costing [billions of dollars](#).

In 2011, Republicans did it again. Senator Mitch McConnell called the debt ceiling "[a hostage worth ransoming](#)." That stunt [caused](#) the [first downgrade of America's credit rating in history](#). Markets crashed on [Black Monday, August 8](#), costing investors [7% in value, worth \\$2.9 trillion](#).

Democrats think government should pay its bills. That's why they voted [three times to raise the debt ceiling for President Trump](#). But now Minority Leader McConnell and his buddies are at it again, holding the debt ceiling hostage.

The [Tax Policy Center](#) and [CBO](#) report that Trump's 2017 "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" will add \$1-2 trillion to the federal deficit over 10 years. But with President Biden in office, Republicans have morphed from [big spenders](#) into deficit hawks.

Deadbeat Dave hopes we won't notice that Republicans ate dinner, then stiffed the restaurant. We see what you did, Dave, and we don't need deadbeats in Congress.

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