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Editor

Rivereast News Bulletin

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To The Editor:

First, briefly, it's been a month and no Trump-supporting letter-writer has denounced his suggested "termination" of the Constitution. And these people pretend to be conservatives? Ha!

Our main topic: After an exhausting few days, the House has selected Kevin McCarthy as Speaker. It's the first time in a hundred years the vote has gone beyond a single ballot. We'd have to go back to the Civil War to find a race with more ballots; only four in history required more.

What was the obstacle? Juvenile right-wing members throwing hissy-fits about not being in power. Plus the lack of credible alternatives. The Republican Part is pulling itself apart. While sitting on the sideline, holding up "GOP in disarray!" signs is amusing, this is serious. McCarthy compromised on spending and house rules – a sure signal the Republican House will again play games with our nation's credit-worthiness over the debt ceiling.

After Nancy Pelosi – likely go down in history with the greatest Speakers ever, such as Henry Clay, Schuyler Colfax, Henry Thomas Rainey, Sam Rayburn, and Tip O'Neill – McCarthy comes in severely weakened, in charge of a caucus uninterested in governing. Can you imagine the likes of Lauren Boebert, Matt Gaetz, or Paul Gosar with over-sized influence on our country's direction?

To be fair, certain concessions are long overdue. Smaller bills with more time for deliberation are a clear win. But mostly they hobble the House and its Speaker. Never forget: our current fractious politics are not some necessary result of history. They are the results of Newt Gingrich's Speakership: more interested in bombast and prurience than in running the country. I doubt McCarthy has that in mind, but he's sacrificed so much authority, he probably can't stop it.

Okay, just once, then: "GOP in Disarray!!"

Sincerely,

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