

Send in the clowns

Letter to the editor, [Brunswick Beacon](#), 02.23.23

Rep. David Rouzer's Feb. 12 email says "the new House Republican majority hit the ground running." He neglected to add: in clown shoes, a fright wig and a big red bulbous nose.

On Feb. 7, Republicans tried to turn Biden's State of the Union address into a circus. They heckled him for truthfully saying "some Republicans want Medicare and Social Security to sunset every five years." The cameras panned to Senators Rick Scott and Mike Lee. Scott ran Republicans' 2022 senate campaign on a plan saying "All federal legislation sunsets in 5 years. If a law is worth keeping, Congress can pass it again."

Lee is on videotape, saying "It will be my objective to phase out Social Security, to pull it up by the roots and get rid of it. Medicare and Medicaid are of the same sort and need to be pulled up."

Lee Carter, president of communications consultant Maslansky+Partners, analyzed live voter opinions on Fox News and concluded "The way that the Republicans behaved really did turn off a lot of independent voters." In contrast, 71% of viewers said Biden's policies would move the country in the right direction.

On Feb. 8 Republicans' hearing intended to show Twitter's bias against them backfired and proved the opposite. Twitter's most senior safety policy expert testified that, in 2019, Twitter revoked its ban on abusive language taunting immigrants to "go back to where they came from."

Why? To avoid banning Trump after he made that same racist attack on four minority Democratic congresswomen.

After months of hype, Republicans' televised hearing flopped spectacularly and degenerated into farce. You see, Republicans thought Americans wanted a circus as much they did, so they obliged. Cue Stephen Sondheim:

Don't you love farce?
My fault, I fear
I thought that you'd want what I want
Sorry, my dear!
But where are the clowns
Send in the clowns
Don't bother, they're here.

Kristine Garrity
Calabash