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Facing the Debt with Deceit

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The “trillion dollar coin” solution to the federal debt reared its absurd head, again, during the recent “debt ceiling” brouhaha.

I wrote about it over [ten years ago](#), when Big Talkin’ Republicans were challenging Big Spendin’ Democrats over raising the debt ceiling at that time.

The idea is bold trickery, allowing the President to inflate the currency by leveraging Treasury’s Congress-given ability to coin platinum coins at any face dollar value.

Typically, such collector coins sport on the [reverse](#) a value *far below* the metal’s value.* The trillion dollar coin would invert that, fixing the face value *far, far above* the metal value. The freshly minted coin would be sent to the Federal Reserve, covering the books that way.

It’s inherently deceptive and obviously ridiculous.

Thus it symbolizes contemporary politics quite aptly.

After the recent budget compromise that forestalled any real work of marshaling the federal government’s scarce (if astoundingly awesome) financial resources, however, the trillion dollar coin has been shelved.

For now.

Indeed, Democrats are tiring of the debt ceiling brinkmanship game. And it is mostly posturing. “Democrats have introduced a bicameral proposal to overhaul the debt ceiling process, leaning heavily into the recent default scare to push a bill that would essentially let Treasury ignore the debt cap and continue writing cheques with no limit,” [explains](#) *The Epoch Times*.

Would this any be better than the fake coin?

Perhaps more honest.

But, once again, it would be Congress giving away its authority.

And until Congress can restrain its spending habits, we, the people, will always come up tails.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* On the day I checked, the [spot price for an ounce of platinum](#) was just over \$1000, and the face value on the American Platinum Eagle remained \$100, the ratio being a *tenth* of metal value.