

The Senatorial Suppressor

November 16, 2021

The brazenness of governmental assaults on freedom of speech continues apace.

In addition to “aggressive IRS scrutiny” of conservative groups, using campaign finance regulations to suppress speech, and FBI raids on homes of perpetrators of journalism, we are seeing government officials openly demand that private firms suppress speech.

In September, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote a letter to Amazon chastising it for

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promoting books that contradict the government line about matters pandemical.

One target of Warren’s finger-wagging is *The Truth About COVID-19: Exposing the Great Reset, Lockdowns, Vaccine Passports, and the New Normal* by Joseph Mercola and Ronnie Cummins.

I don’t know how cogent it is. I’m willing to let the authors make their case.

ONE

The Hearth and the Salamander

It was a pleasure to burn.

It was a special pleasure to see things eaten

blackened and *changed*. With the brass nozzle

this great python spitting its venomous kerosene

world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands

hands of some amazing conductor playing all the

of blazing and burning to bring down the tattered

ruins of history. With his symbolic helmet

his stolid head, and his eyes all orange flame

of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the

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Not Senator Warren.

In her public letter, she rebukes Amazon for being “unwilling or unable to modify its business practices to prevent the sale of falsehoods” That’s a lot of book-warehouse-burning implicitly rationalized. How many classics of Western civilization contain falsehoods? Not to mention the I Ching.

Now the authors and publisher of *The Truth About COVID-19* have sued Warren for acting to violate the First Amendment by proxy. Their filing cites a 1963 Supreme Court ruling that politicians violate the First Amendment when telling booksellers that selling certain books may be “unlawful.” Exactly what Warren does in her letter.

As that Court put it, “people do not lightly disregard public officers’ veiled threats.”

Let’s hope that today’s Supreme Court recognizes the same reality.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.