## **Common Sense**

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## GEC Bullet Ducked?

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Last month, a mega-monstrous "continuing resolution" (CR) — allowing federal deficit spending over the set debt limit—was killed by public outcry, helped along by Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and others with megaphones or MAGAphones.

This CR was chucked to the great annoyance of championsof runaway spending and runaway violations of individual rights. They <u>babbled</u> about the autocratic interference of one "President Musk."

As if his complaints alone would have sufficed to kill it had nobody else in America cared.

The mega-monstrous CR was <u>replaced</u> by a *mini*-monstrous CR. The replacement sported many fewer pages, things like a pay raise for congressmen having been left out. Also deleted? A part of the State Department devoted to censoring Americans.

Called the Global Engagement Center (GEC), it was designed to use indirect methods to censor Americans guilty of *wrongthink*. The plan was to give our tax dollars to creators of blacklists, like \$100,000 to the <u>Global Disinformation Index</u>. American advertisers then would feel compelled to avoid dealing with listed companies—to remain on the good side of the U.S. government

Thanks to "President Musk" and his "obedient slave" Donald Trump, the GEC died. State's website now <u>says so</u> itself.

Or did it? Has the GEC simply been rebranded?

The new thing is a so-called Counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Hub; it looks like State will <u>still</u> <u>be funding</u> this GEC clone.

The GEC, after all, was also supposed to focus only of foreign agitprop.

When will government agencies stop trying these kinds of antidemocratic, anti-constitutional end runs?

Never. Not voluntarily.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.