

Cato Policy Report

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“To Be Governed...”

YOU'D THINK ILLINOIS GOVERNORS WOULD MAKE SURE THE PRISONS ARE COMFORTABLE

A federal judge has held the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) in contempt for failing to abide by a court order to improve medical care for incarcerated people.

—*Reason*, August 11, 2022

YES, WE'D ALL BE LIVING IN MUD HUTS WITHOUT BIG GOVERNMENT

There is a long history of the government being essential to American innovation. We might not have computer chips, the Internet or COVID-19 vaccines without collaborations between big government and big business.

—*New York Times*, August 10, 2022

THE BOOK'S CALLED “FLAMER,” WHY NOT JUST BURN IT?

A Katy ISD police officer temporarily removed a copy of a book from a high school library last month as part of an investigation after a woman filed a criminal complaint alleging the district was providing “harmful” material to minors.

The book, “Flamer,” by Mike Curato, had been formally reviewed by a committee and deemed appropriate for high school students in the district in March. . . .

The woman told police she already filed complaints about the book with the dis-

trict, according to the police report, but she was not satisfied with the outcome of the subsequent decision made regarding its appropriateness. . . .

The complainant said she wanted to file a police report “so she may then take a copy of it to the Texas Rangers,” the document says.

—*Houston Chronicle*, August 23, 2022

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS GOOGLE ARRESTED?

[Axel Springer CEO Mathias Döpfner] penned a fiery open letter in 2014 to then-Google CEO Eric Schmidt, blasting the company as a monopoly and the entire industry for a disregard for privacy he said rivaled the East German Stasi.

—*Washington Post*, September 6, 2022

LET'S PUT THE GOVERNMENT IN CHARGE OF TRUTH. THAT ALWAYS WORKS WELL.

If hosting platforms such as Spotify fail to moderate podcasts peddling in disinformation, the U.S. government should do more to regulate this growing area of news consumption.

—*Jillian Moss at the Regulatory Review*, September 15, 2022

PROS AND CONS

In the United States, however, unpacking the history of communism—an ideology associated with John Reed, Woody Guthrie,

Isadora Duncan, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Paul Robeson, Lucille Ball, the Hollywood 10 and Rage Against the Machine—gets complicated quickly. This philosophy that killed tens of millions also inspired generations of activists.

—*Washington Post*, September 20, 2022

SHE'S NO HYPOCRITE: SHE OPPOSES CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

Some clues to Ms. Pelosi's future may be found . . . in San Francisco—where the tantalizing possibility of the city's first open congressional seat since the fall of the Soviet Union has become the political talk of the town.

—*New York Times*, August 13, 2022

SOCIALISM: THE WORD WE DO NOT SAY

Aguero spent his life in Caracas, Venezuela's capital. The economic crisis and political unrest gripping the country pushed nearly the entire population into poverty, including his family. Millions have fled.

—*Washington Post*, September 17, 2022

Venezuela, under an authoritarian government, has become a broken country, fueling a massive exodus of people seeking to feed their families. More than 6.8 million Venezuelans have left since 2015.

—*New York Times*, October 7, 2022