CENSORSHIP

Censorship is one of the first things totalitarian regimes use to silence the opposition. Our strongest weapon is the pen or in today’s world the enter key. If individuals are censored, it's not much of a stretch for anyone and everyone to be next. The algorithms developed by Amazon et al to identify us leave us one keystroke away from having our accounts deleted and for all intent and purpose to be silenced.  Better dust off the Smith-Corona before this happens.

George Washington and the founding fathers recognized the importance of communication with the establishment of the U S Postal Service.  This guaranteed the efficient, inexpensive delivery of newspapers and mail. The mail had a guarantee of privacy. They understood the importance of an informed citizenry. This is another example of their genius. The Postmaster General was a cabinet position until 1971.

Juxtapose forward. Social media is a primary means of communication today. It has an upfront cost of zero. However, this apparent cost of zero does come with a cost. This cost is the loss of privacy. Who we communicate with and what we say is an open book controlled by Mark Zuckerburg et al who effectively have a monopoly.

Although our e-mails may be private, they are easily subject to hacking. Also, the Patriot Act of 2001 and subsequently updated to the USA Freedom Act of 2020 gives increased authority to the government to access our records, private property and communications WITHOUT probable cause. Senator Russ Feingold (d, Wi) had it correct in his opposition and sole vote against the Patriot Act in 2001 which gave the government a blank check to spy on the citizens.

For all intent and purpose, social media is a de facto public utility. We need to redefine how we communicate and again recognize the importance of being an informed citizenry. The 1st and 4th Amendment in the Bill of Rights have already nailed it and it is time to address how it applies to social media now.

Until then our most secure form of private communication is--- is--- is an old-fashioned mailed letter.  Not secure? Write in code also known as cursive to totally befuddle them.

The talking heads and politicians can't and are incapable of solving this issue. It is up to the informed citizen to demand solutions from them and the time is NOW.

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