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The TicTok tussle

The ramifications of the government’s battle with TicTok are becoming clearer, Joe Biden’s campaign wants you to know that the president is funny. To prove it, examples of hishilarity were posted almost daily to his TicTok page. One video, peppered with fire emojis, shows him cracking joke about Donald Trump. Viewers have their own gag, ”isn’t him tring to ban this app.”

The government says it is not banning this app, but has gaven it an ultimatum: sell to a suitable non-Chinese owner by January or shutdown. It deems TicTok, which is owned by ByteDance, a Chinese firm to bea national security threat. Politicians excused of China using this app to steal America’s data and spread propaganda. TicTok denied these charges and is suing, so are its users, they argue that divestment is simply not possible (China could block it),and Congress is singling out and banning TicTok, in violation of the first amendment rights of its 170m America’s users, imposing restrictions on speech in favor of national security is extraordinary high bar， says \_\_\_\_, the government needs concrete evidence that TicTok poses an imminent and serious national threat, something that \_\_\_ and others argue the government has not provided. Lawmakers were briefed on TicTok’s threat and risks in private , but little has been made public. The dispute will probably reach the supreme court, in the meantime, the ramifications of the TicTok tussle are becoming clearer, they go well beyond TicTok. A platform that has 1 million active users monthly, at least 20% owned by foreign \_\_\_ based in one of the four adversary countries– China, North Korea, Iran and Russia could be targeted. \_\_\_ Congress man and one of the bill’s cosponsor says, this brings social media up to date with the foreign ownership limits on other media.

Some worry that the scope of the law is too broad, video games and other messaging services are potentially in the line of fire. The government could widen the definition of adversary countries, says \_\_\_\_\_, many expect other countries to cite America’s move against TicTok as justification for targeting foreign apps they disagree with, potentially further fragmenting the global internet. Shutting TicTok would be a gift to the authoritarians around the world, warns \_\_\_\_.

TicTok’s efforts to oppose the legislation may have it subjected to a further regulatory scrutiny. It sent notifications to its users urging them to call congress and stop a TicTok shutdown. Mr \_\_\_ claims the Capitol Congress hill was flooded with calls, some were from children, some of whom allegedly did not know what a congressman was, he is calling for an inquiry by federal Trade Commission , a trustbuster, into whether that broke the child-privacy laws. The power of foreign adversary has with that app was underscored by the influence campaign. TicTok denied these allegations and claimed these calls were from voting age people. The firm insists that it is doing its best to cooperate with the government and it has protected America’s data, in a way that no other company has done. In its lawsuit, TicTok claimed it gave the authorities an extraordinary option to suspend the app, if it is found to violate provisions of a draft national security agreement, negotiated through the committee onforeign investment in United States, a watch dog. The company says Biden’s administration has ignored its efforts, and the 2 billion plus dollar it has invested in project Texas, a collaboration with Oracle, a tech-giant, to wall off Americans’data from ByteDance.

The law includes criteria that the president adds on foreign companies

Mr\_\_\_ is unimpressed, the government worked for years with Tictok to try to mitigate national security risks, he says, you can’t trust anything they said in project Texas. For now Mr Biden’s campaign can meme away on TicTok throughout the election season. Mr Trump who tried to ban TicTok under an executive order in 2020, but has since revert his position, is apparently mulling a campaign launch on the app. According to Washington Post. The MAGA PAC has already entered the ring. It would all be hilarious, if the stakes weren’t so high.