BULLSMUN IV

Tick Tock: TikTok Board of Directors, 2024

Letter from the Crisis Director

Hello and welcome to BULLSMUN IV! I am Sam Kass, your very brainrotted crisis director for this specialized committee. Trust me, I am still making sense of it myself. I am currently in my junior year here at the University of South Florida and am dual majoring in International Relations and Criminology. I have been part of the university's Model UN team since my freshman year and have attended numerous conferences representing the **Green and Gold.** I enjoy reading and playing video games, as well as anything college football-related (hopefully at the time of committee, the Bulls are having an undefeated season). I look forward to directing this very special committee and meeting all of the young minds who will be participating in this year's conference. **Horns Up!!!!**

Letter from the Chair

Hello! My name is Eduardo Arriola, your chair for the best committee at BULLSMUN IV! I am in my sophomore year of studying Political Science at USF. I have been blessed to be able to do Model UN since my junior year of high school. I've lived my whole life in the beautiful Tampa Bay area and am a lifelong fan of the USF Bulls. I am excited to see how all of you navigate this committee of political turmoil and seemingly endless brainrot hooks! I cannot wait to see the brilliance of this committee!

Committee Introduction

The first amendment to the constitution deals with the right of every American citizen to be entitled to the freedom of speech. What that specifically entails has been the subject of debate amongst some of the finest legal minds since the country's inception. So, what happens when its citizens suspect something or someone is trying to take away those rights? They fight back, but not on a battlefield, not with guns or tanks; but with words and the mighty pen. This is the exact case with the United States' proposed ban on the Chinese social media platform, Tik Tok.

The Tik Tok ban was a real issue that dealt with legal frameworks and lawyers, politicians, news media, and of course, the people on the ground who were worried about whether they could continue to scroll endlessly in the waking hours of the morning or whether they would have to switch to the inferior Instagram reels. The efforts by lawmakers to enforce the TikTok ban was the subject of months of speculation and debate, finally culminating in the passage of the ban and the subsequent signing into law by President Biden in April of 2024 under the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

This committee will take place shortly after Congress has passed the bill, but before that bill is signed into law. President Biden has set about creating and putting together a special commission to report about TikTok and its effects on National Security, the American People, and the Country at large. This commission consists of some of the

finest minds in both the TikTok sphere and the American government, though this committee has found itself mysteriously transported across the globe and into a locked conference room with suspiciously bright yellow walls. All of them coming together to discuss, deliberate, and decide whether the president should sign the bill into law, veto it into oblivion, or build upon the pre-existing framework. The president has given this commission one task: determine what the United States should do about TikTok, and find the balance between national security and freedom of speech.

Committee Special Mechanics

The committee will begin as a presidential commission tasked with investigating the national security, constitutional, and socio-economic implications of TikTok. A maximum of four blocs will be permitted during this time. As the committee progresses, the commission will need to take a more definitive position on the legislation before President Biden. At this point, delegates will need to merge with other blocs to form two blocs: those in support of the legislation and those advocating against it. Each bloc will write their resolution to defend their position as well as a proposed course of action to enforce it. These arguments will form the basis of the committee's culminating mock trial where some details are being kept quiet on the creek. The goal is not simply to win the trial. Delegates must build a legally defensible, politically realistic, and a sound case for their position and of course brainrot their way to the top.

Committee Issues and History

Depending on who you ask the history of it can be used to support one side or another, so it is vital to know it front and back as it provides us with *precedent!*

By the early 2020s, the debate surrounding the future of TikTok had evolved from a routine technology dispute into a complex geopolitical conflict. This was never just a minor policy footnote. Instead, it represented a genuine collision of national security frameworks, ambitious politicians, aggressive media cycles, and the daily lives of millions of ordinary citizens. For the vast majority of users, the primary concern was not

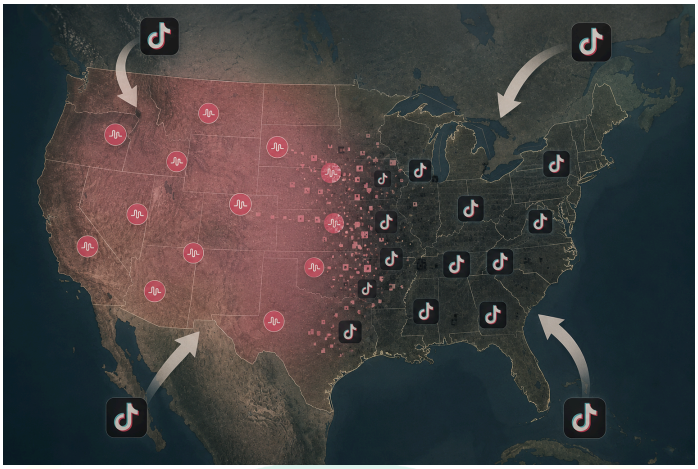
international relations, but rather a simple question of daily routine: whether they would still be able to access the application early in the morning or whether they would be forced to migrate to alternative platforms like Instagram Reels. The multi-year push by American lawmakers to address the perceived risks of the application became the subject of intense public speculation, eventually culminating in the passage of a bill that President Joe Biden signed into law in April 2024.

However, this committee convenes before that signature is ever placed on the document. In this alternative scenario, President Biden has assembled a specialized commission tasked with thoroughly investigating the implications of TikTok for national security, public welfare, and the country as a whole. This body brings together prominent figures from the technology policy sector and the federal government, placing them at the same table to deliberate, debate, and ultimately recommend whether the president should sign the legislation or veto it.

Delegates must treat all historical events up to the fourth episode of this guide as settled fact. This timeline represents the actual sequence of events that brought the bill to the executive desk. Everything that occurred after the signing represents where our committee timeline diverges from reality. In the actual course of events, the signing of the bill triggered a highly dramatic series of challenges, including a Supreme Court case, a temporary platform shutdown, executive delays under a subsequent administration, and an eventual corporate divestiture completed by January 2026. While a summary of this actual history is provided at the end of this guide for context, it has not yet happened within this committee room. Here, the future of the platform remains entirely undecided, and the final decision rests in your hands.

Historical Timeline

Episode I: The National Security Menace (2017 to 2019)

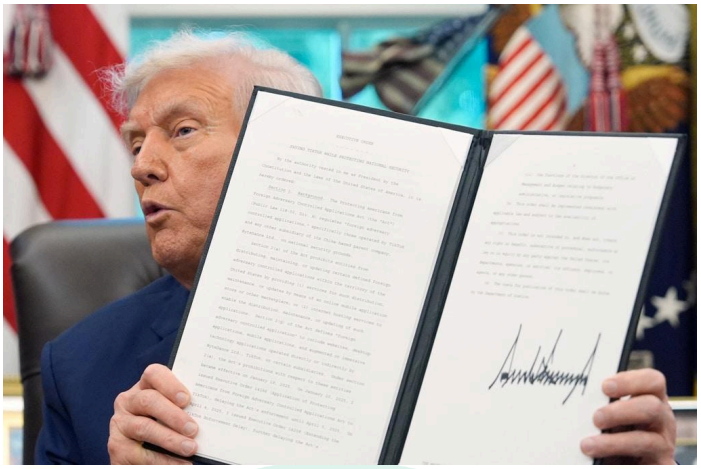


In September 2017, the Beijing based technology company ByteDance launched TikTok for global audiences, aiming to replicate the massive success of its domestic application, Douyin. To quickly secure an established user base in the West, ByteDance acquired Musical.ly, a highly popular lip sync application among American teenagers, for approximately 1 billion dollars. By August 2018, ByteDance officially merged the two platforms, immediately transferring millions of active users to TikTok and setting off an era of explosive growth.

While the American public embraced the application for its viral dance trends and remarkably accurate recommendation algorithm, policymakers in Washington began to view the platform through a geopolitical lens. As trade and technological competition between the United States and China intensified, lawmakers raised alarms over TikTok's data pipeline. Under China's 2017 National Intelligence Law, domestic companies can be compelled to cooperate with state intelligence operations. This raised critical concerns that ByteDance could be forced to hand over sensitive data on American users or alter its algorithm to spread foreign influence.

Despite repeated assurances from TikTok executives that they operated independently, federal scrutiny deepened. By late 2019, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, (known as CFIUS), formally opened a national security review into the acquisition of Musical.ly, shifting the perception of the platform from a harmless cultural phenomenon to a serious technological threat.

Episode II: The Trump Executive Orders (2020)



The political pressure surrounding the application reached a boiling point in the summer of 2020. Citing the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, President Donald Trump signed a series of executive orders aimed at forcing ByteDance to divest its American operations or face an outright ban within the United States. The administration argued that the collection of personal data from millions of citizens constituted an active threat to national security.

TikTok quickly responded with legal action, challenging the constitutionality of the orders. Federal courts ultimately blocked the executive actions before they could take effect, ruling that the administration had likely exceeded its statutory authority. This legal battle created a temporary stalemate. While the attempt to unilaterally ban the application via executive order had been legally rebuffed, the fundamental questions surrounding data privacy and foreign ownership remained entirely unresolved, setting the stage for a much larger legislative conflict.

Episode III: The Institutional Shift (2021 to 2023)



Upon taking office, President Joe Biden revoked the executive orders issued by his predecessor. Rather than pursuing unilateral executive actions, the new administration favored a more deliberate, institutional process, leaving the formal investigation to CFIUS. However, this shift did not mean that security concerns had faded. Instead, the debate decentralized, spreading to state capitals and federal agencies alike.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, dozens of state governments, the United States military, and various federal departments banned TikTok from government issued devices. In mid 2023, Montana attempted a total statewide ban on personal devices, though this was later blocked by a federal judge on First Amendment grounds. Meanwhile, congressional frustration erupted during a high-profile hearing in March 2023, where TikTok Chief Executive Officer Shou Zi Chew faced intense, bipartisan questioning regarding data privacy and corporate ties to Beijing.

In response to these growing pressures, TikTok introduced Project Texas, a massive initiative designed to route all American user data through domestic servers managed by Oracle. Yet, this billion dollar effort failed to satisfy critics, who argued that as long as ByteDance retained ownership, the structural risks remained.

Episode IV: The Legislative Consensus (2024)



Following years of congressional hearings and piecemeal security measures, lawmakers in Washington moved forward with a unified, bipartisan response. In early 2024, Congress passed the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, which was integrated into a larger national security funding package. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, reflecting a rare moment of deep consensus in a highly divided political climate.

Sitting on President Biden Desk by Mid- April , 2024, the bill presented ByteDance with a stark ultimatum: divest its American operations within 270 days, specifically by January 19, 2025, or face a total ban from United States application stores and web hosting services. TikTok and ByteDance filed lawsuits in federal court, arguing that the forced divestiture violated the First Amendment rights of over 170 million American users. The federal government countered that the legislation was not a restriction on free expression, but rather a necessary measure targeting foreign ownership and national security vulnerabilities. This core debate, balancing free speech against national defense, became the central legal conflict of the entire dispute.

Episode V: The Temporal Divergence (April 2024/ Present)

This is where our historical events diverge into the fun timeline.

At the moment this committee officially begins its deliberations, the legislation sits on President Biden's desk, awaiting his signature. The dramatic events that unfolded in our actual history, including the Supreme Court appeals, the threat of a platform blackout, subsequent administrative delays, and the final corporate divestiture completed by

January 2026, have not occurred. Within this room, those outcomes are merely hypothetical possibilities.

As members of this specialized presidential commission, you are not here to witness or ratify history. Instead, you are tasked with shaping it. The responsibility falls on this body to analyze the far reaching implications of this decision and recommend whether the president should sign the bill into law, veto the legislation, or propose an entirely new path forward.

The Future of Social Media is in Your Hands.

Questions to Consider:

1. How should the United States balance national security concerns with the constitutional protections afforded by the First Amendment?
2. What level of evidence should be required before Congress restricts or bans a widely used digital platform owned by a foreign company?
3. If TikTok is determined to pose a national security risk, what alternatives exist besides a nationwide ban or forced divestiture?
4. How can the federal government regulate foreign-owned technology companies without discouraging innovation, investment, and economic competition?
5. What precedent would the committees action against TikTok establish for future foreign-owned technology companies operating in the United States?
6. How should the United States address growing concerns regarding foreign influence over digital platforms while maintaining an open and competitive internet?
7. What responsibilities should technology companies have in protecting American user data, regardless of where their parent company is headquartered?
8. How can policymakers ensure that any action taken against TikTok addresses legitimate security concerns without unnecessarily limiting the rights of millions of American users?
9. Does Tiktok pose a reasonable national security threat?

Character Dossier

Tralalero Tralala- For

An ancient three-legged shark in bright blue sneakers, Tralalero was abandoned at a young age and achieved consciousness during a solar eclipse. His operatic chanting has caused entire towns to communicate exclusively through nonsense songs. He believes Tiktok has corrupted the true Italian brainrot with low-effort trends and supports the ban so society can return to appreciating his authentic opera.

Merrick Garland- US AG- For Leaning

The Attorney General has somehow found himself in a committee with the greatest minds the internet had to offer. After reading up on his compatriots and the classified briefing "*Bombardiro Crocodilo and its National Security Implications*", he decided enough was enough. Garland supports the ban because the United States is for the people by the people, not for Brainrot by Brainrot.

Tung Tung Tung Sahur- For Leaning

A colossal enchanted wooden guardian who awakens cities and towns by smashing his giant baseball bat against telephone poles before dawn. His footsteps shake landmasses, yet no one has been able to photograph him successfully without hearing "Tung Tung Tung" first. He supports the Tiktok ban because Tiktok has violated his sacred global wake up calls by keeping people up all night.

Shou Zi Chew- TikTok CEO- Against

The CEO of tiktok has survived many congressional hearings defending his proud Singaporean heritage. He once even explained the tiktok algorithm so successfully a senator forgot the question asked. He opposes the ban, insisting the platform exists to unite the world's creators, including opera sharks and milkshake monsters.

Bombardino Crocodilo- Against

A heavily armed crocodile bomber powered by coffee, poor decisions, and unexplained aviation design and physics. Bombardiro circles the globe searching for quiet neighborhoods to dramatically fly over. He opposes the ban because Tiktok is the only place that keeps track of his location, which even he cannot seem to do.

Chimpanzini Bananini- For Leaning

A chimpanzee permanently fused with a giant banana after a potassium related laboratory incident, chimpanzini survives almost entirely on screaming and fruit. After missing eight straight days and missing out on countless bananas to doom scrolling he now supports the tiktok ban in order to help others not befall his same fate.

AJ- Against Leaning

AJ is the patriarch of the Costco Guys empire and the self-proclaimed guardian of the Costco Food Court. He has built up his patented BOOM meter into an international luxury lifestyle, trying out Costco's around the world. AJ opposes the Tiktok ban because the platform turned him and his son into internet legends with just one double chunk chocolate cookie.

Big Justice- For

The legendary Costco warrior measures the value of all things on the sacred BOOM scale, from chicken bakes to constitutional amendments. His booming voice has reportedly caused the free sample people at Costco to salute him. He supports the ban because he wants people to pay more attention to him than to their phones.

The Rizzler- Against

The physical manifestation of charisma, charm, and beauty, The Rizzler's aura is visible from space and has ended multiple wars through his piercing eye contact alone. He opposes the ban because it would create an irreversible worldwide shortage of rizz opponents for him.

Mr. Beast-For Leaning

The internet's wealthiest challenge creator has given away islands, cities, and probably a small moon. Every sentence he speaks becomes a clickbaity thumbnail. He supports the ban because he believes creators can thrive anywhere, and he's already filming $1,000,000 Survive without TikTok.

Skibidi Toilet- Against Leaning

A singing toilet that escaped a plumber's grasp and somehow became one of history's greatest military commanders, Skibidi Toilet has developed lore too complicated for modern historians. He opposes the ban because TikTok is the birth of a new civilization for him to conquer.

Baby Gronk-For

A football prodigy whose recruiting rumors have become more famous than professional sports themselves, Baby Gronk has allegedly received scholarship offers from colleges that don't even exist yet. He supports the ban so future athletes spend more time training instead of creating highlight reels of their game tape.

Elizabeth Prelogar- Against

The solicitor general is an expert on constitutional issues and is now finding herself engaged in debate with sentient crocodiles and haunted mascots. She remains committed to defending legal principles despite the overwhelming confusion. She opposes the ban based upon her strong first amendment principles.

GigaChad-For Leaning

Forged from creatine and protein powder, GigaChad is consistently looking for a bench to press and a jawline to mog. His only calendar event is the gym. He supports the ban because every hour spent scrolling is an hour not spent achieving muscular perfection.

Christopher Wray-Against Leaning

The FBI director has spent months reviewing intelligence reports about Tiktok and its characters. His analysts have all requested to resign and now it's only him left at the FBI. Wray opposes the ban, believing that it is easier to gain information about America's enemies through the app, rather than through traditional sources.

John Pork-For

The pig-headed businessman who is consistently confused as to why his calls go unanswered in the middle of the night. He has been trying to understand why his calls create internet sensations and now his boss is threatening to fire him for poor sales quotas. He supports the ban because his internet fame is causing problems at his job.

Grimace- Against

A giant purple blob of an unknown species, grimace has accidentally cursed millions with his birthday milk shake. He opposed the ban because finally he has gained notoriety and infamy on the internet.

Avril Haines-For

As Director of National Intelligence, Haines oversees analysts forced to determine and inform on threats against the United States. She reports directly to the president and is a key member in the situation room. She supports the ban because any app capable of organizing Italian brain rot deserves national security scrutiny.

Freddy Fazbear- Against Leaning

The haunted animatronic bear has terrorized abandoned pizzerias for decades but secretly enjoys watching reaction edits of himself on Tiktok. He believes the jump scares he creates are an intellectual art form. Freddy opposes the ban because Tiktok has become the greatest advertisement ever for his pizzeria.

Khaby Lame- Against

The silent king of Tiktok has conquered the internet using nothing but his hands and facial expressions powerful enough to destroy useless life hack content creators. He opposes the ban because true creativity does not require words or government permission.

Big Chungus-For Leaning

An enormous rabbit whose size expands in proportion to his meme popularity, Big Chungus has accidentally caused earthquakes simply by sitting down. He supports the ban because people keep posting clips of him eating, and it is not pretty.

John Xina- Against

A former martial artist turned actor, John Xina always arrives with dramatic music and immeasurable confidence. No one can see him enter or leave venues though. He opposes the ban because his legend grows everyday that people post or talk about him and his love of Bing Chilling.

Chuck Schumer- Against Leaning

The Senate Majority Leader expected to debate and negotiate legislation, but now finds himself in a battle with a turtle in the Senate. Schumer opposes the ban, arguing regulation is easier than explaining to his constituents why he is now against free speech online.

Mike Johnson- For

The Speaker of the House has reluctantly agreed to hear arguments regarding the ban after his son caught him watching Tiktok on his phone. Johnson

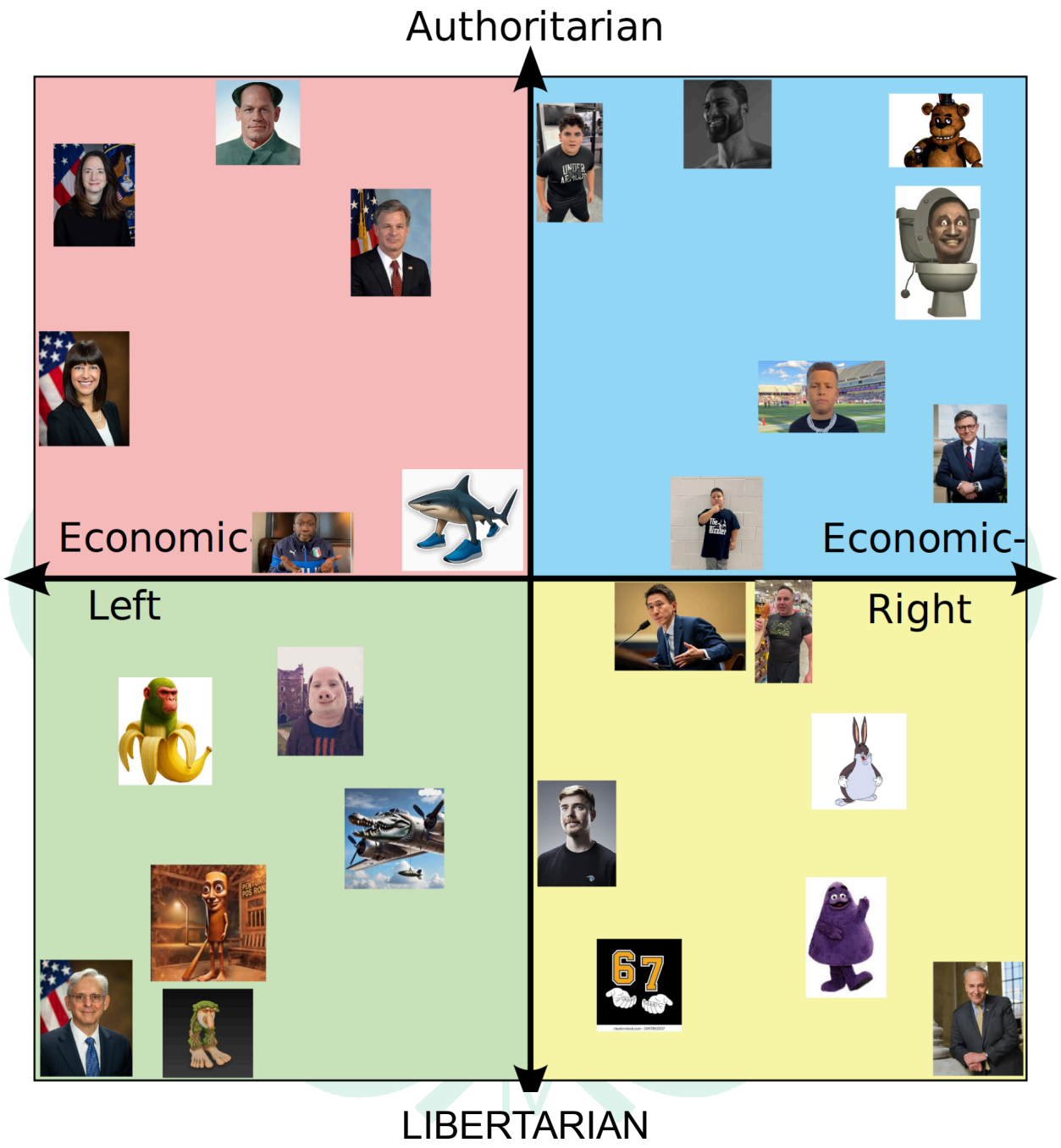
supports the ban because national security to him is more important than healthcare policy at this time.

The Number 6-7-For Leaning

A sentient mathematical number that communicates thorough spreadsheets and hand gestures, the Number 6-7 has never been wrong and constantly reminds everybody, which of course annoys them. After 67 trillion calculations it has concluded that banning Tiktok might improve worldwide stability by 67%.

Brr Brr Patapim- Against Leaning

A hyperactive forest spirit powered by caffeine and percussion instruments, Patapim leaves spontaneous dance circles wherever he is. Scientists have classified him as a plant, even though he has sentience. He opposes the ban because Tiktok is the only ecosystem where his dance moves are actually respected.



The Political compass will have no actual basis upon committee actions and procedures

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General Timelines

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