Thème Document 6

Le rapide effacement du service public étatsunien se poursuit. Après avoir mis au placard les responsables de son agence humanitaire (USAID) et infiltré son agence des ressources humaines (OPM), l'administration Trump s'attaque au ministère de l'Éducation.

The fast / rapid dismantling of the U.S. public services is well under way / The dismantling of American public services is going on at full speed / at a very sustained pace. After having fired / sacked / terminated the federal workers at its humanitarian agency (USAID) and inserting officials in its Human resources agency (the Office of Personal Management, OPM), the Trump administration is going after / is attacking the Education Department.

Avec pour objectif de réduire les dépenses et les effectifs du ministère, l'équipe aurait mis la main sur plusieurs systèmes internes sensibles et sur des données concernant les aides boursières, contenant les informations personnelles de millions d'étudiants. Un responsable de la Maison-Blanche a par ailleurs confirmé au quotidien que des mesures concernant le ministère allaient être prises dans le mois à venir.

Aiming to cut the department's spending and shrink its workforce, the DOGE team is said to have taken over / has allegedly taken over several sensitive internal information systems and obtained data on financial aid / on grants, which contain personal information on millions of students. A White House official also confirmed to the newspaper / the daily that measures / decisions concerning the Education Department are to be taken in the coming month.

Cependant, Donald Trump ne peut pas supprimer le ministère de l'Éducation en un claquement de doigts. Pour cela, son décret doit passer par le Congrès et en ressortir avec une *«supermajorité»* d'au moins soixante votes en sa faveur. Pour cela, au moins sept sénateurs démocrates doivent se ranger du côté du texte. Une situation que les observateurs politiques considèrent comme inconcevable.

However, Donald Trump cannot just snap his fingers and make the department disappear overnight. To do so, his executive order has to be approved by Congress with a supermajority of at least sixty percent of the favourable votes / of at least sixty senators. It would mean that a minimum of / at least seven Democratic senators need to / have to approve the text. A scenario that political observers / experts say is simply inconceivable / unthinkable.

DOGE (= DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY) is controversial and has spawned protests and lawsuits. It has engaged in mass layoffs of federal workers, gained IT and system access to numerous federal agencies, installed loyalists as top officials, overseen the removal of alleged "DEI" content, and canceled federal contracts. Its dissolution of agencies and its seizures of congressionally authorized funds has been described as violating Article 1 of the Constitution. Neither DOGE nor Trump has constitutional authority to cut spending, but they can make recommendations for cuts to Congress which controls the power of the purse. Legal experts have warned about a looming constitutional crisis. Democratic Party members, supporting this assertion, challenged DOGE's authority and characterized its actions as a "coup". Conflict of interest concerns have been raised over companies owned by Elon Musk receiving billions for doing business with the federal government and having existing disputes with federal regulators. Musk has said DOGE actions are "maximally transparent", although Trump has exempted it from public disclosure rules. The White House says that DOGE complies with federal law, and that Musk would recuse himself if DOGE activities and his businesses conflicted

From Wikipedia

Federal Judge Bars Elon Musk's Team From Student Loan Databases

The American Federation of Teachers, a union representing more than 1.8 million educators, had sued to keep members of Mr. Musk's government efficiency team out of the Education Department's systems.

By Zach Montague, Reporting from Washington, The New York Times, Feb. 24, 2025

A federal judge in Maryland granted a temporary restraining order on Monday blocking the Education Department and the Office of Personnel Management from disclosing sensitive data to members of Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency team and anyone assisting them.

The <u>order</u>, issued by Judge Deborah L. Boardman in Federal District Court for the District of Maryland, prevents Mr. Musk's representatives from carrying out what they have described as an audit of the Education Department's student loan systems for two weeks while the lawsuit continues.

Judge Boardman wrote that the government had not argued convincingly that members of Mr. Musk's team had a real need for access to such personal information in the performance of their duties.

"DOGE affiliates have been granted access to systems of record that contain some of the plaintiffs' most sensitive data — Social Security numbers, dates of birth, home addresses, income and assets, citizenship status, and disability status — and their access to this trove of personal information is ongoing," Judge Boardman wrote. "There is no reason to believe their access to this information will end anytime soon because the government believes their access is appropriate."

The American Federation of Teachers, a union representing more than 1.8 million educators, had sued to keep members of the Musk team out of the department's data systems, which it said contained private information that its members had submitted in connection with student aid for themselves or their families.

"We brought this case to uphold people's privacy, because when people give their financial and other personal information to the federal government — namely to secure financial aid for their kids to go to college, or to get a student loan — they expect that data to be protected and used for the reasons it was intended, not appropriated for other means," Randi Weingarten, the group's president, said in a statement.

https://www.npr.org/2025/02/25/nx-s1-5308095/doge-staff-resignations-elon-musk https://time.com/7213288/what-is-usaid-what-impact-does-it-have-across-the-globe/