

Brief to Congress on The Big Con: Trump's War on Americans (Feb. 2025)

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## **The Big Con: Trump's War on Americans**

### ***Using DOGE, Project 2025, and Schedule P/C (formerly "F") to Corrupt Executive Branch Power and Disable the System of Checks and Balances within the U.S. Government***

**The Big Con** represents the Trump administration's blueprint for a war on America and America's Democratic Republic by consolidating unprecedented control over the Executive Branch for personal and political gains. Under the guise of improving government efficiency, it leverages tools like **DOGE** and **Schedule P/C** (formerly Schedule F, now Political/Career) to achieve the controversial objectives of Project 2025.

**Project 2025**, a 920-page political manifesto, outlines strategies that critics argue amount to institutionalized corruption. **DOGE** serves as an unofficial mechanism to provide a facade of legitimacy for these objectives, while **Schedule P/C** is the instrument by which political operatives could dismantle the civil service. By granting unchecked authority over career civil servants, this framework threatens to erode the independence and integrity of the Executive Branch by **forcing civil servants into political servitude**.

Highlights from the sections below:

- ***Schedule C appointee versus Schedule P/C political operative.** Schedule C political 'appointees' are term-limited and capped at 4,000 hires. Schedule P/C political 'operatives' are permanent hires and unlimited in number. Neither Schedule C nor P/C hires are supervised, evaluated, or disciplined by professional civil service employees because they are not part of the civil service. Therefore, they are mainly unsupervised, but appointees and operatives can evaluate, supervise, and discipline career civil servants. This is corruption.*
- *The federal government terminates employees at nearly TWICE the rate of the general workforce for performance or conduct. [Lie and Truth #2, below]*
- *The Executive Branch has not grown since 1952. [Lie and Truth #9]*
- *The Executive Branch is the smallest in recent history, representing 0.597% of the U.S. population per capita, down from a high of 1.85% during World War II. [Lie and Truth #9]*
- *Federal employee salaries and benefits represent less than 16% of all discretionary spending and less than 4% of the total budget. [Lie and Truth #11] Contractors and taxpayer-funded corporate profits account for 45% of discretionary spending and over 5 million workers. [Lie and Truth #10]*
- *Non-defense discretionary funding is at the lowest level in modern history as a percentage of GDP. [Lie and Truth #12]*

- *DOGE/Project 2025 attempts to Defund the Police by disabling federal law and regulatory enforcement agencies through budgetary and political control and 'non-enforcement' directives driven by political operatives. [Lie and Truth #16]*

### **Schedule C vs. Schedule P/C: A Crucial Difference**

Schedule C appointees and Schedule F political operatives fundamentally differ in scope, oversight, and impact on the federal government.

- **Schedule C Appointees:** These are temporary political hires, capped at around 4,000 positions across the federal government. Their roles are time-limited and designed to support senior officials in executing policy goals. While not subject to civil service oversight, their positions are well-defined, and their number is controlled.
- **Schedule P/C Operatives:** Created under the Trump administration, Schedule P/C enables unlimited, permanent political hires. Unlike Schedule C, there is no cap on the number of positions, granting virtually unchecked authority to populate the government with loyalists.

### **Unaccountable Appointees and Operatives: The Recipe for the Abuse of Power**

Schedule C appointees and Schedule P/C operatives are not subject to supervision, evaluation, or discipline by professional civil servants because they operate outside the competitive civil service system. However, both are granted the authority to evaluate, supervise and discipline career civil servants, fostering a dynamic that is highly vulnerable to abuse. It is fundamentally misguided to allow political appointees or operatives to supervise career civil servants, who are often more qualified, experienced, and committed to impartial public service. Even worse, prohibiting career civil servants from supervising political appointees undermines accountability and transparency, weakening the integrity of the government.

### **Rogue Appointees and Operatives: The Recipe for Corruption**

While Schedule C hires serve as temporary appointees, Schedule P/C empowers operatives to exert lasting political influence. Under Schedule F, Executive Branch political operatives could exploit their authority in unprecedented ways:

- **Unlimited hiring:** Unlike the controlled numbers of Schedule C, Schedule P/C removes limits, allowing political operatives to flood federal agencies.
- **Exploitation of authority:** Project 2025, the administration's guidebook, explicitly directs these operatives to weaponize federal resources, target political opponents, and undermine the rule of law.
- **Industry manipulation:** Schedule P/C operatives could improperly influence industries, regulatory enforcement, and sectors critical to national security, infrastructure, and financial stability.

### **The Cardinal Sin: Forcing Civil Servants into Political Servitude**

Schedule F also permits the forced reclassification of civil servants into Schedule F, effectively transforming impartial professionals into political operatives. This move undermines the

independence of the civil service, placing inherently governmental functions under direct political control. Such authority would enable the Executive Branch to:

- Suppress dissent and target whistleblowers.
- Neutralize those who fight corruption or uphold the rule of law.
- Turn federal agencies into tools for political retribution.

### **Lasting Threats to Accountability and Transparency**

Schedule P/C represents a direct challenge to the foundations of democratic governance. Dismantling the civil service's accountability and impartiality risks transforming the federal government—particularly the Executive Branch—into a vehicle for unchecked political power. This erosion of safeguards undermines the rule of law, transparency, and the principles the U.S. government was built upon.

### **The Big Con's Lies (and Truths) About the Federal Workforce, the Size of Government, and the Laws that Keep the Executive Branch Effective, Efficient, Accountable, and Transparent.**

Regarding the Federal Workforce:

1. **LIE: You can't fire a federal employee.**  
**TRUTH:** Each year, about 11,500 federal employees are terminated for disciplinary or conduct issues—an average of 44 every workday [[FedScope FY20-24](#), [Fedscope FY15-19](#)], or .52% of the Executive Branch workforce (based on approximately 2.3 million employees).
2. **LIE: Private Sector Fires Employees More Often.**  
**TRUTH:** The federal workforce's yearly termination rate (0.52%) for performance and conduct is nearly double the general workforce (0.33%). According to historical data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey [[JOLTS](#)], approximately 1% of the general workforce is involuntarily separated yearly. Of the 1% involuntarily separated, 33% (or 0.33% of the general workforce) are historically attributed to discharges for performance or conduct issues, while the rest (66%) are due to layoffs [[Annual Reviews, fig 2](#)].
3. **LIE: Merit System Protections are unnecessary.**  
**TRUTH:** Misrepresented as 'job protections' for individual workers, Merit System Principles and civil service laws protect the federal workforce and Executive Branch from unfair or unethical practices that could undermine its stability. They do not hinder employee performance evaluations or accountability measures. Instead, they enhance transparency and prevent the misuse of performance standards. Performance protocols are designed to ensure continued employment is based on meeting clearly defined expectations. When managers effectively carry out their responsibilities, Merit Principles and civil service laws operate harmoniously with performance evaluation systems.
4. **LIE: Civil service protections keep poor performers on the job.**  
**TRUTH:** When proper protocols are followed, terminating poor performers is

straightforward, as yearly federal termination rates prove. Appeals rarely overturn terminations unless improper management procedures are evident.

5. **LIE: Merit System Principles hinder performance.**

**TRUTH:** These principles promote fairness and stability in federal employment, enhancing accountability while ensuring fair and transparent performance evaluations. Given the high termination rate within the federal government, Merit Systems do not hinder terminations for performance or conduct; however, a failure to properly train managers in adverse actions is a factor [[MSPB](#)].

6. **LIE: Schedule P/C will improve performance.**

**TRUTH:** Schedule F would instill fear among nonpartisan civil servants through intimidation and threats of losing their jobs. It would suppress productivity and erode 150 years of government efficiency and progress on integrity and accountability. It would end reporting fraud, waste, abuse, or unethical practices and undermine oversight, transparency, and accountability within the government.

7. **LIE: Schedule P/C will improve accountability and transparency.**

**TRUTH:** Schedule F allows unlimited permanent political appointees hired under questionable qualifications and circumstances. These political hires are unaccountable to anyone except other appointees, paving the way for massive corruption and abuse of power and taxpayer resources. It is pure corruption. Anyone who supports Schedule F is supporting the corruption of the Executive Branch, including the military.

8. **LIE: MSPB and FLRA shield poor performers.**

**TRUTH:** Employees prevail in only 18% of MSPB cases and 3% of appeals. Management wins 60% of cases at the FLRA, demonstrating that these agencies ensure fairness and accountability, not leniency. These agencies ensure that the hard lessons learned over the last 150 years fighting corruption, political overreach, and unethical activity are not forgotten or repeated.

Regarding the Size and Cost of Government:

9. **LIE: The federal workforce is too large.**

**TRUTH:** The non-postal federal civilian workforce remains at its 1952 size (~2 million). Per capita, it's the smallest in history, representing 0.597% of the U.S. population, down from 1.85% in the 1940s [[Census Bureau](#)]. The American population has more than doubled since 1952. Plus, add the workload from an incalculable number of mandates and laws passed by Congress and sent to the Executive Branch for implementation. Achieving this with the same number of federal employees is stunning. This should be celebrated, not condemned. Even the Legislative Branch and Judicial Branches have doubled in size since 1952.

10. **LIE: Contracting is cheaper in the short and long term.**

**TRUTH:** In fiscal year 2023, the federal government spent approximately \$759 billion on contracting [[GAO](#)], representing roughly 45% of all discretionary spending (\$1.7 trillion) [[CBO](#)]. The number of federal contract workers in the United States is estimated at around 5 million [[Brookings](#)].

**11. LIE: Federal employees are too expensive.**

**TRUTH:** In fiscal year 2022 (2023 not available), the federal government spent \$271 billion on 2.2 million federal employee salaries and benefits [CBO], representing 16% of discretionary spending and 4.3% of the total annual budget [CBO]. Because federal employees pay taxes on their earnings, billions of tax dollars are directly returned to the Treasury annually. In contrast, funding allocated to contractors often contributes to taxpayer-funded corporate profits, which are not directly reinvested into the Treasury.

**12. LIE: Government discretionary spending is out of control.**

**TRUTH:** Non-defense discretionary funding is at the lowest level in modern history as a percentage of GDP [Moody's Analytics, 2024].

Regarding the Mission of the Executive Branch:

**13. LIE: Regulations hurt businesses.**

**TRUTH:** Regulations are essential safeguards created in response to harmful actions. Despite inaccurate claims, the stock markets, corporate profits, constant dividends, and rampant stock buybacks remain at record highs, and the growing number of American billionaires shows that businesses thrive under regulatory frameworks. No economic data shows that regulations slow *legitimate business* functions or the ability to profit. The effort to deregulate is based on greed and the desire to escape regulatory and law enforcement.

**14. LIE: Schedule P/C and DOGE combat the deep state.**

**TRUTH:** Existing layers of oversight prevent a so-called "deep state." Schedule F, however, creates covert networks of unqualified political operatives who will undermine transparency and democracy. This is the definition of a deep state.

**15. LIE: Schedule P/C and DOGE will improve government operations.**

**TRUTH:** Political agendas will override agency missions, crippling services like food inspection, infrastructure repair, disaster relief, environmental protection, consumer protection, benefits programs (Medicare and Social Security), and national security, among others.

**16. LIE: Schedule P/C and DOGE/Project 2025 will promote businesses and capitalism.**

**TRUTH:** Schedule F/DOGE/Project 2025 attempts to Defund the Police within the federal government by disabling the Executive Branch's ability to enforce its rules and laws against corruption and illegal activity. It also defunds via budgetary decreases and 'nonenforcement' orders by political operatives, federal law and regulatory enforcement agencies, and their personnel. Suppressing these agencies will allow wealthy and politically connected corporations to engage in unethical or illegal activities, mainly where the government oversees illicit business activities. This will promote an abundance of unethical and illegal activity, including falsifying reporting to investors, evading health and safety requirements, undercapitalizing investments, corner markets, embezzling funds, etc. This is the real motivation behind DOGE and Project 2025, on which Schedule F is a pivotal enabler: To get law enforcement out of the way.