

Exhibit 6



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

Follow

The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

4:48 PM - 17 Feb 2017

50,113 Retweets 152,998 Likes



76K 50K 153K

Exhibit 7



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

Follow



#FraudNewsCNN #FNN



9:21 AM - 2 Jul 2017

Exhibit 8



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

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While in the Philippines I was forced to watch @CNN, which I have not done in months, and again realized how bad, and FAKE, it is. Loser!

5:45 AM - 15 Nov 2017


29,316 Retweets 126,422 Likes



37K 29K 126K

Exhibit 9



Donald J. Trump 

@realDonaldTrump

Follow

Great, and we should boycott Fake News CNN. Dealing with them is a total waste of time!

Sarah Sanders  @PressSec

Christmas comes early! Finally, good news from @CNN. [twitter.com/politico/statu..](https://twitter.com/politico/status/925111111111111111)

6:49 AM - 29 Nov 2017

15,136 Retweets **63,717** Likes



Exhibit 10

The New York Times

Trump Says He Fired Michael Flynn 'Because He Lied' to F.B.I.

By **Maggie Haberman**, **Michael S. Schmidt** and **Michael D. Shear**

Dec. 2, 2017

President Trump said on Saturday that he had fired Michael T. Flynn, his first national security adviser, because he lied not just to the vice president but also to the F.B.I.

The president has long asserted that he fired Mr. Flynn in February, less than a month after he took office, because Mr. Flynn had lied to Vice President Mike Pence over whether he talked with the Russian ambassador, Sergey I. Kislyak, about sanctions imposed on Russia by President Barack Obama.

By saying on Twitter on Saturday that Mr. Flynn's lies to the F.B.I. had also contributed to his firing, some took that to mean that Mr. Trump was acknowledging that he had known in February that Mr. Flynn was untruthful with the bureau's agents. Any such admission would be important in light of Mr. Trump's effort that month to persuade the bureau's director at the time, James B. Comey, to drop the investigation into Mr. Flynn.

But White House officials said that Mr. Trump was merely acknowledging what had happened the day before: Mr. Flynn's guilty plea for lying to the F.B.I. about his conversations with Mr. Kislyak.

While Mr. Trump's tweet on Saturday raised questions about what he knew, he did not actually write it, according to two people briefed on the matter. It was composed by his top personal lawyer, John Dowd, who was in contact with Mr. Trump on Friday and Saturday, trying to calm him after Mr. Flynn's guilty plea.

Mr. Dowd apologized to White House officials for the tweet, saying he should have been more careful with his language in trying to parrot a statement released on Friday by another Trump lawyer, Ty Cobb.

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It is not clear that Mr. Trump was ever told that the F.B.I. believed that Mr. Flynn had lied in his interview with agents. Shortly after the acting attorney general, Sally Q. Yates, told the White House counsel, Donald F. McGahn II, in January that Mr. Flynn might be compromised because

he had misled the vice president, Mr. McGahn briefed Mr. Trump, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Mr. McGahn told Mr. Trump that it was his impression from Ms. Yates that the federal authorities were not pursuing a case against Mr. Flynn for lying to the F.B.I., according to one of the people. It is unclear whether the president understood this to mean that Mr. Flynn had been cleared.

The president's lawyer believed Ms. Yates, in part, because she had not told him that Mr. Flynn should be fired or lose his security clearance, the person said. In subsequent conversations between Mr. Trump and Mr. McGahn about whether Mr. Flynn should be fired, Mr. Trump did not cite Mr. Flynn's truthfulness with the F.B.I.

Going against his aides' wishes, Mr. Trump spoke to reporters outside the White House on Saturday. But he only repeated his contention that there had been "no collusion" with Russia. The Saturday tweet, however, was quickly seen as off the mark by a number of White House aides.

Since firing Mr. Flynn, Mr. Trump has insisted that his national security adviser did nothing wrong by talking with the Russian ambassador. He repeated that in his tweet.

"It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful," he said. "There was nothing to hide!"

Mr. Trump spent Saturday in New York attending two fund-raisers for the Republican National Committee. He did not mention Mr. Flynn or the Russia investigation in his remarks at either fund-raiser, according to two people who attended them.

In conversations with aides on Friday and Saturday, Mr. Trump was relatively subdued. He made no dramatic declarations about the Russia investigation, though he asked several advisers what Mr. Flynn's plea deal could mean.

Christina Caron contributed reporting.

A version of this article appears in print on Dec. 3, 2017, on Page A22 of the New York edition with the headline: Trump Says He Dismissed National Security Adviser 'Because He Lied' to the F.B.I.

Exhibit 11



RUSSIA INVESTIGATION | UPDATED DEC. 3, 2017

Did Trump Just Incriminate Himself by Saying He Knew Flynn Lied to the FBI?

By Chas Danner



Oops?

One day after Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, President Trump seemed to confess that he already knew about that when he fired Flynn back on February 13 — and may have now incriminated himself by doing so.

Trump had originally said that he forced his former national security adviser to resign because Flynn had lied to Vice-President Mike Pence about a December conversation with Russian

ambassador Sergey Kislyak. On Saturday, Trump explained that he also did so because Flynn lied to the FBI:



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!

109K 12:14 PM - Dec 2, 2017

96.3K people are talking about this

Lying to Mike Pence or the FBI is undoubtedly a fireable offense, but only one of them is a crime, and that's a crucial distinction when considering what Trump did the day after Flynn's ouster. Former FBI director James Comey testified before Congress that on February 14, President Trump took him aside and told him that Flynn had done nothing wrong in speaking with the Russians and that he had fired him for misleading Pence. The FBI was already investigating Flynn at that point, and Trump told Comey that, "I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go."

Comey didn't let it go, and though he didn't testify as to whether or not he believed Trump was trying to obstruct justice, he did make it clear that he thought the president was trying to tell him what to do. Trump eventually fired Comey, of course, and cited his disapproval with the FBI's investigation into Russia's election-meddling as part of his rationale.

According to Comey's testimony, Trump told him he believed Flynn had done nothing illegal. According to Trump's tweet on Saturday, that might not have been true, and thus Trump might have been trying to get the director of the FBI to look the other way regarding a crime by a top White House official.



Susan Hennessey

@Susan_Hennessey

This is a pretty substantial confession to essential knowledge elements of an obstruction of justice charge.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his

actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!

19.3K 12:37 PM - Dec 2, 2017

7,446 people are talking about this

Now, Trump says — and especially tweets — a lot of stupid and/or demonstrably wrong things, so it's possible that Trump's Flynn tweet was just some misguided attempt to retroactively update his good judgment to fire Flynn. On the other hand, Trump's tweets are now regularly treated as official statements by both the White House and the judicial system — so Trump might have some trouble walking this statement back, should Mueller and his investigators choose to focus on it.

Legal experts who spoke with the *Toronto Star's* Daniel Dale were already flagging the tweet on Saturday:

“The question of whether Trump committed obstruction of justice when he asked Comey to drop the investigation on Valentine's Day will largely turn on Trump's intent: was he just trying to put in a good word for Flynn, or was he in fact trying to end a criminal investigation?” [Harvard Law professor and former federal prosecutor Alex] Whiting said in an email. “If he genuinely believed that Flynn did nothing wrong, that tends to support the former interpretation. But if, as he now admits, he knew that Flynn had lied to the FBI, a federal crime, then he knew that by asking Comey to drop the investigation, he was seeking to end a meritorious criminal investigation.”

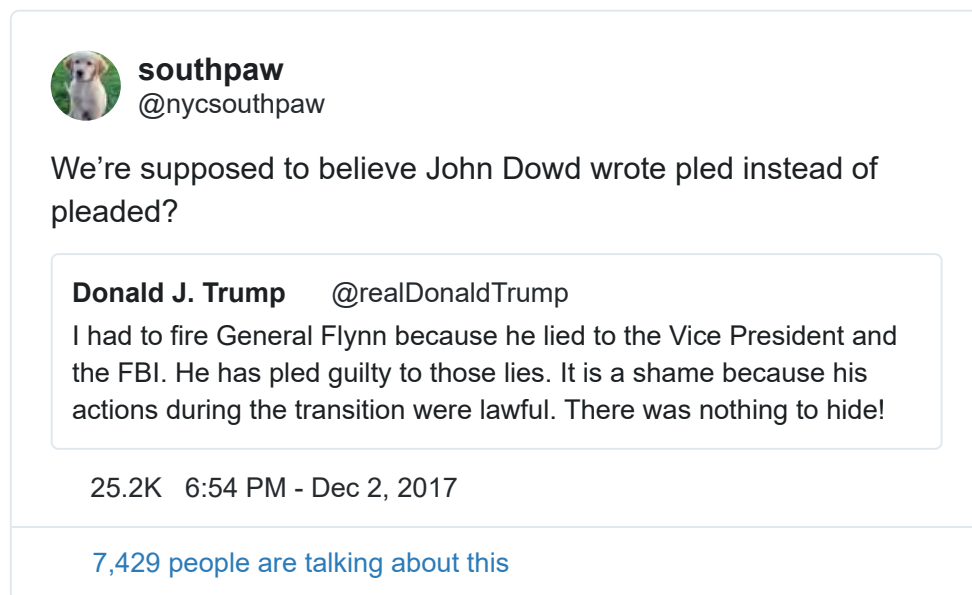
Others said that the tweet itself wasn't enough to prove obstruction, but might have laid the breadcrumbs to more evidence that could.

Adding to the confusion that typically follows Trump's remarks, the *Washington Post* subsequently reported on Saturday that Trump's personal lawyer, John Dowd, said he was responsible for crafting the Flynn tweet. If that's true — and it's not at all clear why any competent lawyer would put those words in Trump's mouth — the president could conceivably pass the blame.

However, the White House hasn't retracted Trump's statement or deleted the tweet, which you'd think they'd do if a staffer screwed up a tweet he had written while pretending to be the president. Trump's tweets have been deleted and replaced before, after all. Instead, the White House tried to soften the impact by claiming that the president's tweet was just

acknowledging Flynn's plea, not admitting prior knowledge. Along those lines, Dowd unconvincingly told the *Post* that the tweet was paraphrasing a statement from another White House lawyer, Ty Cobb, who said on Friday that Flynn's false statements to the FBI "mirror the false statements to White House officials which resulted in his resignation."

According to the *Post*, "two people close to the administration described the tweet simply as sloppy and unfortunate." Here's some word-choice sleuthing, too:



(If you want more linguistic analysis of the tweet, Ben Zimmer collected some for the *Atlantic*.)

So Dowd is trying to take the blame, but that's awfully convenient cover for one of Trump's more legally precarious tweets, and lawyers aren't usually "sloppy" when it comes to statements that might incriminate their clients.

And looking back at the timeline of Flynn's FBI interview and firing, it is indeed possible that Trump knew, as of the Comey meeting on February 14, that Flynn had lied to the FBI during his January 24 interview.

Flynn's possibly criminal lies didn't become public knowledge until that news was leaked to the media on February 16. But two days after Flynn was interviewed by the FBI, former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates was alarmed enough by what she'd learned to warn White House counsel Don McGahn that Flynn might have compromised himself by misleading Pence. McGahn then followed up with Yates a day later to inquire as to what criminal statutes might apply to Flynn. According to two sources who spoke with the *New York Times*, McGahn apparently briefed the president on the matter, telling Trump "that it was his impression from

Ms. Yates that the federal authorities were not pursuing a case against Mr. Flynn for lying to the F.B.I.,” but it was not clear if Trump understood that to mean that Flynn had been cleared. (McGahn, who has since tried to blame Yates for his ignorance, was reportedly interviewed by Mueller’s investigators on Thursday.)

Either way, since Trump tried to pressure Comey to drop the investigation, the president surely understood that the FBI believed Flynn may have committed a crime, even if he didn’t explicitly understand at the time what that crime was.

What, if anything, Mueller decides to do with Trump’s Flynn tweet remains to be seen, but considering Trump’s propensity to spout off against the wishes of his advisers and lawyers — and the White House’s propensity to obfuscate in the aftermath — it’s difficult to believe the tweet was anything better than an incompetent mistake. At worst, Trump just acknowledged he knew Flynn committed a crime and inadvertently admitted he tried to cover it up.

We don’t even know what Flynn will reveal now that he is cooperating with Mueller, but Trump and the White House already appear to be making unforced errors as a result.

This post has been updated to include additional analysis.

RELATED



A Brief History of Michael Flynn's Downfall

Exhibit 12

WHITE HOUSE

Trump's lawyer claims responsibility for president's problematic tweet



— John Dowd leaves U.S. District Court in Manhattan in May 2011. Brendan McDermid / Reuters File

Dec. 3, 2017 / 10:22 PM IST / Updated Dec. 4, 2017 / 6:16 PM IST

By Kristen Welker and Max Burman

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's personal lawyer took responsibility Sunday for [a tweet](#) that Trump sent the previous day, in which the president said for the first time that he knew his former security adviser, Michael Flynn, had lied to the FBI before he fired Flynn in February.

The tweet caused an uproar in Washington because it implied Trump knew Flynn had committed a felony — lying to the FBI — when [he told then-FBI director James Comey](#) to go easy on Flynn the day after the firing.

Did Trump tweet indicate he may have obstructed justice?

DEC. 4, 2017 / 03:07



Interfering in the FBI's investigation could be construed as obstructing justice, potentially creating legal jeopardy for Trump. Within a few hours, Trump's personal lawyer, John Dowd, stepped in to say that he wrote the tweet, not the president.

Dowd told NBC News that he drafted the tweet and then sent it to White House Social Media Director Dan Scavino to publish. When asked for the original email he sent to Scavino, Dowd said he dictated it orally.

I never asked Comey to stop investigating Flynn. Just more Fake News covering another Comey lie!

— Donald J. Trump
(@realDonaldTrump) December 3, 2017

"I'm out of the tweeting business," Dowd said with a chuckle. "I did not mean to break news."

Trump, however, issued 10 tweets in 24 hours related to the Russia investigation, the FBI, and how federal investigators should really be

looking into Hillary Clinton.

He also denied that he asked Comey to back off the investigation, though Comey has testified to that effect under oath before Congress.

"I never asked Comey to stop investigating Flynn," [he tweeted](#) on Sunday morning. "Just more Fake News covering another Comey lie!"



— John Dowd leaves U.S. District Court in Manhattan in May 2011.
Brendan McDermid / Reuters file

Dowd said that Trump's [other tweet](#) saying Flynn was fired in part for lying to the FBI was a reference to a statement made by acting Attorney General Sally Yates when she came to the White House on Jan. 26. At that time, she told White House Counsel Don McGahn that Flynn had "given the agents the same story he gave the Vice President."

"For some reason, the [Justice] Department didn't want to make an accusation of lying," Dowd said. "The agents thought Flynn was confused."

McGahn then passed that information on to the president, Dowd said.

"All the president knew was that the department was not accusing him of lying," Dowd said.

Dowd's decision to claim responsibility for the tweet was [first reported by The Washington Post](#) and confirmed by NBC News on Sunday.



In another [tweet sent early on Sunday morning](#), Trump denied ever asking Comey to drop his investigation into Flynn.

Dowd added: "The point of that tweet was entirely correct. It's just very sad. I don't know why the guy lied. He didn't need to."

According to court documents, Flynn twice lied to the FBI about his interactions with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Flynn falsely said he had not asked Kislyak "to refrain from escalating the situation" in response to sanctions that the U.S. had imposed against Russia on Dec. 29, three weeks before the Trump administration came into office.

Court documents also said that Flynn had lied when he claimed that he had not asked Kislyak "to delay a vote on or defeat" a U.N. Security Council resolution on Dec. 22.

Nope. Not letting this go. The FBI's reputation is not in "tatters". It's composed of the same dedicated men and women who have always worked there and who do a great, apolitical job. You'll find integrity and honesty at FBI headquarters and not at 1600 Penn Ave right now

– Eric Holder (@EricHolder)
December 3, 2017

On both occasions, Flynn sought counsel with senior Trump transition officials before speaking to the Russian diplomat Kislyak. According to three people familiar with the matter, one of the people on the transition team Flynn spoke with is Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner. Two people familiar with the matter said that another transition official referred to in the court documents is K.T.

McFarland, who served as deputy national security adviser for five months and is now the nominee to become the next U.S. ambassador to Singapore.

According to the charges, Flynn lied to the FBI two days after he was sworn in as Trump's national security adviser.

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Schiff's Trump fire tweet shows 'How little he understands the job he has'

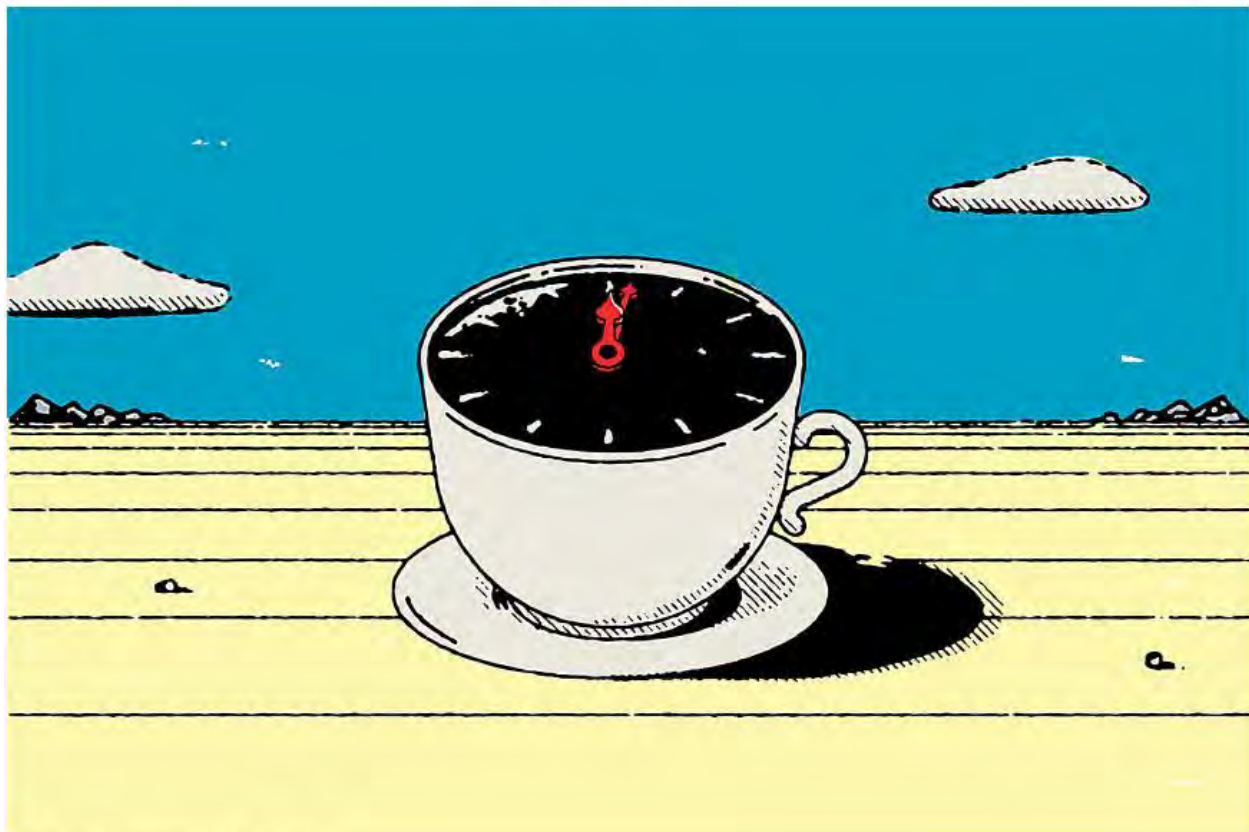
Since the Mueller probe began in May, Flynn is the first senior White House official to be charged in the investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. He is also the first official to agree to fully cooperate with the inquiry.

A source close to the Trump administration told NBC News that the White House was "blindsided" by the announcement Friday Flynn's guilty plea.

Kristen Welker reported from Washington. Max Burman reported from London. 🇺🇸

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The Dow Is Down as October's Worries Return

Baron's

Exhibit 13

**Donald J. Trump**

@realDonaldTrump

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Another false story, this time in the Failing [@nytimes](#), that I watch 4-8 hours of television a day - Wrong! Also, I seldom, if ever, watch CNN or MSNBC, both of which I consider Fake News. I never watch Don Lemon, who I once called the "dumbest man on television!"
Bad Reporting.

9:17 AM - 11 Dec 2017

30,478 Retweets **129,627** Likes

67K 30K 130K

Exhibit 14



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

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Even Crazy Jim Acosta of Fake News CNN agrees: "Trump World and WH sources dancing in end zone: Trump wins again...Schumer and Dems caved...gambled and lost." Thank you for your honesty Jim!

6:31 AM - 23 Jan 2018

25,118 Retweets **122,625** Likes



26K 25K 123K

Exhibit 15

POLITICO



POLITICO



President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter over the weekend that Comey “will go down as the WORST FBI Director in history, by far!” | Alex Wong/Getty Images

Trump claims he didn't fire Comey over Russia investigation

By **LOUIS NELSON** | 04/18/2018 08:58 AM EDT | Updated 04/18/2018 11:45 AM EDT

President Donald Trump claimed Wednesday that his firing of former FBI Director James Comey was not related to the bureau’s investigation into Russian interference of the 2016 election, contradicting the explanation he offered in the days after Comey’s firing was first announced.

“Slippery James Comey, the worst FBI Director in history, was not fired because of the phony Russia investigation where, by the way, there was NO COLLUSION (except by the Dems)!” the president wrote on Twitter.

Trump fired Comey last May, a step the White House initially said he took based on the recommendation of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who had written a memo suggesting the FBI director's dismissal over his unusually public handling of the bureau's investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server during her tenure as secretary of state.

But Trump upended that messaging days later when he told NBC News's Lester Holt that he was planning to fire Comey regardless of Rosenstein's recommendation and that the bureau's Russia probe was on his mind as he made the decision.

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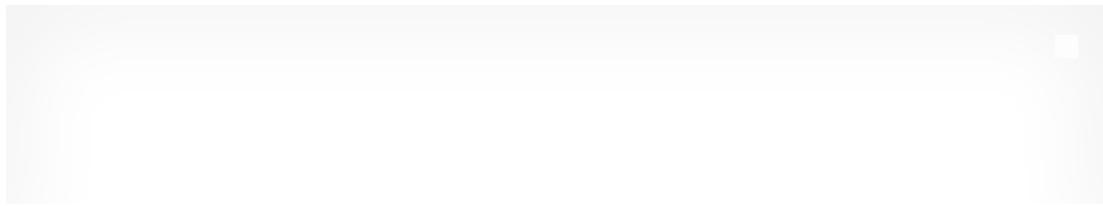
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"When I decided to just do it, I said to myself, I said you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story," Trump told Holt of his decision to fire Comey. "It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should have won."

Comey said during an interview on ABC's "The View" Wednesday that he took Trump "at his word" when the president told Holt the Russia probe crossed his mind when he decided to dismiss the FBI director.

Comey added that he didn't know "what to make of" the president's tweet, but that the contradictory statements demonstrated that "the president is not committed to the truth as a central American value."

ADVERTISING



The former FBI director has retaken center stage this week amid a publicity tour to promote his new book. In both the book itself and in interviews promoting it, Comey has characterized the president as a liar who has undermined American values and is morally unfit to hold his office.

The White House has responded in kind, labeling Comey a leaker and a liar whose congressional testimony had to be corrected almost as soon as it was given. Trump wrote on Twitter over the weekend that Comey “will go down as the WORST FBI Director in history, by far!”

Cristiano Lima contributed to this report.

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Exhibit 16

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Saturday
Devastating California wildfires turn deadly



60 Minutes Overtime
"He's not a quitter"

CBS NEWS / May 23, 2018, 3:18 AM

Lesley Stahl: Trump admitted mission to "discredit" press

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Last Updated May 23, 2018 5:39 AM EDT

CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent Lesley Stahl has revealed a candid remark made to her by then-presidential candidate Donald Trump in 2016. Stahl **told a group of fellow journalists** at the Deadline Club Awards Dinner in New York City earlier this week that Mr. Trump had admitted his consistent attacks on the media were meant to "discredit" journalists so that negative stories about him would not be believed.

Stahl was the first television journalist to **sit down with Mr. Trump for an interview** following his election victory. Their wide-ranging on-camera interview did not delve into Mr. Trump's attitude toward the press, but Stahl said on Monday night that in a candid, off-camera meeting earlier that year, she pressed him to explain his barrage of insults aimed at journalists, and he gave her a clear explanation:

"I said, 'You know, that is getting tired. Why are you doing this? You're doing it over and over. It's boring and it's time to end that,'" Stahl said on stage alongside

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The Senate race predicting

"PBS Newshour anchor Judy Woodruff.

- [Trump lashes out at New York Times reporter in latest attack on press](#)
- [Trump reignites war with CNN, trashes networks](#)
- [Trump defends Sinclair stations amid outcry over scripted newscasts](#)

"He said, 'You know why I do it? I do it to discredit you all and demean you all so when you write negative stories about me, no one will believe you.' He said that," Stahl told the audience, adding, "So, put that in your head for a minute."

The audience, and Stahl's fellow panellist Woodruff did take a moment to process the remarks.

"We're all absorbing what you just said," Woodruff said in reaction.

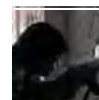
While the extended interview that "60 Minutes" aired did not discuss Mr. Trump's views on the press, Stahl did allude to them in a post interview discussion on CBSN, saying he appeared to be struggling with the challenge of keeping his base happy while also assuring the wider American public that he was going to work for them.



America's future



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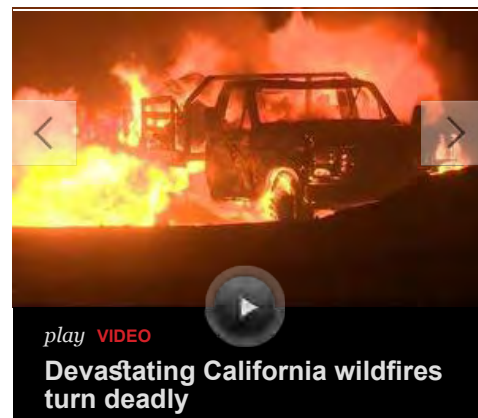
"That's always going to be a tug-and-pull for him, and I felt him grappling with it right there and then with me in the room," recalled Stahl. "And he wants to blame the press for everything... believe me, he showed no combativeness, no bitterness toward anybody but the media."

Mr. Trump has [continued his fight](#), largely on the battleground of social media, against what he derides as the "fake news" media. According to polling and interviews cited by The Associated Press at the beginning of this year, the [tactic appears to be sowing seeds of doubt](#), as intended.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story originally stated that Mr. Trump had made the remark about trying to "discredit" the media to Stahl when she was at his office for the "60 Minutes" interview in November. It has been corrected to reflect that the remark was made during an informal meeting between Mr. Trump and Stahl in July 2016, before Mr. Trump won the presidential election.

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Latest From CBS News

The status of the Arizona,

Exhibit 17



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

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Real [@FoxNews](#) is doing great, Fake News
CNN is dead!

Robby Starbuck  @robbystarbuck

Fox News has been #1 for 197 months straight. In the latest ratings disaster for CNN they lost another 25% of their viewers. Fox has 10 of the top 15 shows and even hold the #1 spot in the younger key demo. The public is loudly rejecting @CNN.
forbes.com/sites/markjoye...

12:46 PM - 2 Jun 2018

Exhibit 18

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CNBC TV

Trump says former Fox News exec Bill Shine joins White House staff

- Bill Shine, who was co-president of Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, has officially joined the Trump administration.
- Shine will be President Donald Trump's assistant and deputy chief of staff for communications.
- Shine will reportedly accompany Trump aboard Air Force One on Thursday to a rally in Montana.

Kevin Breuninger | [@KevinWilliamB](#)

Published 12:59 PM ET Thu, 5 July 2018 | Updated 7:40 PM ET Thu, 5 July 2018



Lucas Jackson | Reuters

Fox News President Bill Shine departs after meeting with then-President-elect Donald Trump at Trump Tower in New York, November 21, 2016.

Bill Shine, who was co-president of Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network, has officially joined the Trump administration, the White House said Thursday.

Shine will join the White House staff as President [Donald Trump's](#) assistant and deputy chief of staff for communications.

The former top TV executive "brings over two decades of television programming, communications, and management experience to the role," the White House said in a statement.



Shine [resigned from Fox in May 2017](#), trailing the departure of Fox's ex-chairman, Roger Ailes, who resigned 10 months earlier after being accused of sexual harassment by a former host.

Less than a month before Shine resigned, Fox News host Bill O'Reilly was [removed from the network](#) amid his own allegations of sexual harassment. Both Ailes, who died less than a year after his departure, and O'Reilly denied the allegations.

Shine had been at Fox News since it launched more than 20 years ago. His departure had been strongly protested by Sean Hannity, the network's most popular host and pundit, who was reportedly longtime friends with Shine.

When rumors of Shine's ouster began to surface, Hannity said on [Twitter](#) that such a move would be "the total end of the FNC as we know it. Done."

[Sean Hannity tweet](#)

Hannity, one of Trump's most loyal and outspoken defenders, reportedly has been described by White House advisors as a de facto member of the administration and even a "[shadow](#)" [chief of staff](#).

Trump regularly touts Fox News, especially on social media, while bashing other media outlets as "fake news."

Shine was in talks with Trump administration officials to become the White House communications director, [people familiar with the matter told CNBC in June](#). The post was vacated in March by [Hope Hicks](#), the fourth to serve in the role under Trump.

Shine will accompany Trump aboard Air Force One on Thursday to a rally in Montana, [Axios reported](#), where the president is expected to drum up support for Republican Senate candidate Matt Rosendale, as

well as incumbent Rep. Greg Gianforte, in the midterm elections.

As Shine joins Trump's team, Joe Hagin, White House deputy chief of staff for operations, is preparing to resign.

Hagin had been credited as being a key player in the unprecedented summit last month between Trump and North Korean leader [Kim Jong Un](#). He will step down Friday.



Kevin Breuninger

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Exhibit 19

Trump Refused To Answer A Question From A CNN Reporter In A Press Conference With Theresa May

The president did, however, take a question from Fox News, which he called "a real network".

Originally posted on July 13, 2018, at 11:32 a.m.

Updated on July 13, 2018, at 1:04 p.m.



Patrick Smith

BuzzFeed News Reporter



Stefan Rousseau / PA Wire/PA Images



President Trump used the global stage to call an unfavoured cable news network "fake news" on Friday, at a joint press conference with British prime minister Theresa May.

During a question and answer session after both leaders had delivered short speeches, Jim Acosta of CNN attempted to ask the

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journalist dishonest and the network possibly worse than CNN.

He then took a question from Fox News, which he called "a real network".



BuzzFeed News
@BuzzFeedNews

When a CNN reporter tried to ask Trump a question at a news conference, Trump said "CNN is fake news. I don't take questions from CNN. John Roberts of Fox. Let's go to a real network."

274 · 8:30 AM - Jul 13, 2018

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John Roberts, the Fox reporter, said in an emailed statement that he supported his White House press corps colleagues and that it was unfair to marginalise them.

"In today's press conference, I paused while my colleague from CNN went back and forth with President Trump over a question," he said. "When it became clear that the president wasn't going to entertain a question from him, I proceeded with my question, as did my fellow colleagues in the press corps.

"I know Kristen Welker of NBC. She is honest as the day is long. For the President to call her dishonest is unfair. I also used to work at CNN. There are some fine journalists who work there and risk their lives to report on stories around the world. To issue a blanket condemnation of the network as 'fake news' is also unfair."

Trump and his supporters have a long history of goading or ignoring CNN, as well as other news outlets. Trump has refused to take Acosta's questions before, and just last month the reporter was [booed and told to "Go home, Jim!"](#) at a Trump rally in South Carolina.

But Trump, despite his assertion that he never takes questions from CNN, did so yesterday. After he'd had made some strong comments about Germany's defence spending and reliance on Russia at the NATO summit in Brussels, the president was asked by

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to authoritarian leaders to restrict press freedom, a view shared by others in the media industry.



Hadas Gold

@Hadas_Gold

The U.S. president doing this abroad is like giving authoritarian leaders around the world, who put reporters in jail, who try to quash a free press, a green light.

Christina Wilkie @christinawilkie

Trump: "I don't take questions from CNN. Fake news. Let's go to John Roberts of Fox. A real network."



38.3K 8:32 AM - Jul 13, 2018

14.7K people are talking about this



David Rothkopf

@djrothkopf

Trump is not just being un-American in denying CNN access, he is sending a message to the world that the President of the United States does not believe in a free press, giving license to autocrats everywhere to follow his lead.

02:05 PM - 13 Jul 2018

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Feuds between media outlets and presidents are not new. President Obama was openly critical of Fox News and its nakedly negative coverage of his administration – but attempts to ban its reporters from government press briefings were resisted and widely criticised by other media outlets.

In 2009, officials had attempted to omit Fox News from a Treasury briefing, but other networks [refused to take part](#) until its journalists were allowed in.

CNN declined to comment.

Patrick Smith is a senior reporter for BuzzFeed News and is based in London.

Contact Patrick Smith at patrick.smith@buzzfeed.com

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Exhibit 20



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

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So funny! I just checked out Fake News CNN, for the first time in a long time (they are dying in the ratings), to see if they covered my takedown yesterday of Jim Acosta (actually a nice guy). They didn't! But they did say I already lost in my meeting with Putin. Fake News.....

7:24 AM - 14 Jul 2018

Exhibit 21



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

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Wow, [@foxandfriends](#) is blowing away the competition in the morning ratings. Morning Joe is a dead show with very few people watching and sadly, Fake News CNN is also doing poorly. Too much hate and inaccurately reported stories - too predictable!

7:04 AM - 2 Aug 2018

Exhibit 22

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Trump Revokes Clearance Of Ex-CIA Boss Brennan, Puts Other Critics On Notice

August 15, 2018 · 4:26 PM ET



TAMARA KEITH



Former CIA Director John Brennan at a congressional hearing in 2017. President Trump revoked Brennan's security clearance, claiming he was "erratic." Brennan has been one of Trump's harshest critics in the national security community.

Alex Wong/Getty Images

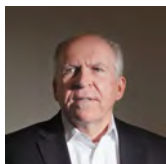
Updated at 5:54 p.m. ET

President Trump has revoked the security clearance of former CIA Director John Brennan, who has become an outspoken critic of the president.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders announced the move on Wednesday following an earlier discussion about pulling the clearance held by Brennan and a group of other targets.

"The issue of Mr. Brennan's security clearance raises larger questions about the practice of former officials maintaining access to our nation's most sensitive secrets long after their time in government has ended," Trump said in a statement that Sanders read aloud at the press briefing on Wednesday.

"Such access is particularly inappropriate when former officials have transitioned into highly partisan positions and seek to use real or perceived access to sensitive information to validate their political attacks."



POLITICS

Trump Wants To Revoke Security Clearances Of Ex-Officials Who've Criticized Him

The enemies list

Trump said he also is evaluating action on the security clearances of other former officials who have been critics or targets of the White House. They include

- former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper
- former FBI Director James Comey
- former National Security Agency and CIA Director Michael Hayden
- former acting Attorney General Sally Yates
- former national security adviser Susan Rice
- former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe
- recently fired former FBI Special Agent Peter Strzok
- former FBI attorney Lisa Page

- Bruce Ohr, a currently serving leader within the Justice Department. Trump and Republicans have faulted Ohr for his contacts with the former MI6 intelligence officer who authored the infamous Russia dossier. Ohr's wife also worked for the political intelligence firm in Washington that commissioned the dossier, which was underwritten by money from Democrats.

Article continues below

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Former national security officials often maintain their security clearances to advise their successors. They also use them in private sector security work. Millions of Americans hold security clearances, many of them in civilian jobs that range from naval shipyards to the national nuclear enterprise.

In the case of Trump's list, Comey and McCabe are understood to have lost their clearances when they were fired from the FBI; it isn't clear how many other people he named might have retained theirs or still use them.

Brennan's post-government activity has included bitter criticism of Trump, including on TV and in Twitter posts that suggest damning revelations about Trump might be around the corner.



John O. Brennan
@JohnBrennan

When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful

place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history. You may scapegoat Andy McCabe, but you will not destroy America...America will triumph over you.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Andrew McCabe FIRED, a great day for the hard working men and women of the FBI - A great day for Democracy. Sanctimonious James Comey was his boss and made McCabe look like a choirboy. He knew all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels of the FBI!

242K 7:00 AM - Mar 17, 2018

[134K people are talking about this](#)

Trump argues there is little utility in allowing Brennan to keep his clearance. In justifying his decision, Trump cited misleading testimony Brennan gave to Congress more than a year ago and more recently his regular presence on TV and Twitter criticizing Trump.

"Mr. Brennan has recently leveraged his status as a former high ranking official with access to highly sensitive information to make a series of unfounded and outrageous allegations, wild outbursts on the internet and television about this administration," Trump said in the statement.

The clearance-revocation campaign has been gathering steam over the summer since a call on July 23 by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., for Trump to punish Brennan.



Senator Rand Paul @RandPaul · Jul 23, 2018

Is John Brennan monetizing his security clearance? Is John Brennan making millions of dollars divulging secrets to the mainstream media with his attacks on [@realDonaldTrump](#) ?



Senator Rand Paul
@RandPaul

Today I will meet with the President and I will ask him to revoke John Brennan's security clearance!

39.9K 6:42 AM - Jul 23, 2018

[22.5K people are talking about this](#)

All the same, at least one important Trump ally did not take the threat of revocations seriously at the time it was first broached. When House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., was asked about the idea, he said he thought Trump was just "trolling people."

Critics fault "Nixonian" tactics

Responding on Twitter on Wednesday, Brennan said Trump's action "is part of a broader effort by Mr. Trump to suppress freedom of speech & punish critics. It should gravely worry all Americans, including intelligence professionals, about the cost of speaking out."



John O. Brennan
@JohnBrennan

This action is part of a broader effort by Mr. Trump to suppress freedom of speech & punish critics. It should gravely worry all Americans, including intelligence professionals, about the cost of speaking out. My principles are worth far more than clearances. I will not relent.

NBC News @NBCNews

BREAKING: President Trump is revoking former CIA Director and high-profile Trump critic John Brennan's security clearance, White House says. [nbcnews.to/2w9hobN](https://www.nbcnews.com/2w9hobN)

160K 3:41 PM - Aug 15, 2018

94.8K people are talking about this

If the goal was to quiet Brennan's criticism, the result may well be the opposite. "My principles are worth far more than clearances," Brennan said. "I will not relent."

Sanders, who read the statement from the podium in the White House briefing room, said the clearance revocation, and the others Trump has threatened, don't amount to a simple campaign to punish critics.

How Do Security Clearances Work? Putting Trump's Threat Into Context

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said the move "smacks of Nixonian-type tactics."

Warner also suggested that the White House chose Wednesday as the day to announce its Brennan revocation because Trump is eager to change the subject from former aide Omarosa Manigault Newman, her tell-all book and the president's insult-laden response to it, which had been dominating the airwaves for days.

"It might be a convenient way to distract attention, say from a damaging news story or two," Warner wrote. But, he added, "politicizing the way we guard our nation's secrets just to punish the president's critics is a dangerous precedent."

There was one indication that Trump and the White House had been saving the Brennan clearance revocation until the right opportunity came along: The first statement from the president released on Wednesday was dated July 26.

The White House later distributed a revised version of the statement with the date removed.

Asked via email why the statement was initially dated July 26 but not released until mid-August, a White House official said: "Today is the date of the revocation."

security clearance president trump john brennan national security white house
justice department fbi cia

More Stories From NPR

Exhibit 23



The 43 most staggering lines from Donald Trump's Indiana speech

Analysis by [Chris Cillizza](#), CNN Editor-at-large

Updated 12:59 PM ET, Fri August 31, 2018

(CNN) — As officials in Washington prepared to honor the late Sen. John McCain, President Donald Trump headed to Evansville, Indiana, to headline a campaign rally for GOP Senate nominee Mike Braun. If you thought Trump might honor McCain's passing or adjust his fiery campaign rhetoric in any way, you thought wrong! *(Trump never mentioned McCain by name in the speech.)*

I went through the transcript of Trump's speech and pulled out the most, um, memorable lines. They're below.



CNN's Chris Cillizza cuts through the political spin and tells you what you need to know. By subscribing, you agree to our [privacy policy](#).

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1. "You love our country. You're proud of our history. And you always respect our great American flag."

While this is a standard Trump line, it takes on a bit of a different meaning since the flag over the White House went back to full-staff on Monday morning -- even as the US Capitol Building had the flag still at half-staff to honor McCain. [Later in the day](#), Trump issued an order for the flags at the White House to hang at half-staff until McCain's burial at the Naval Academy on Sunday.

2. "And now tomorrow you're going to read headlines, 'Trump had protesters all over the place.' One person. One person."

You wouldn't have read headlines like that except for the fact that a [Trump volunteer blocked a photographer](#)

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A staff member for President Donald Trump blocks a camera as a photojournalist attempts to take a photo of a protester during a campaign rally at the Ford Center, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018, in Evansville, Ind. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

him or his side. When that happens, he calls those "suppression polls" because they might have the effect of discouraging people to vote for a lost cause. That, of course, is not the aim of polls. The aim of polls is to provide a snapshot of where a race stands.

6. "But the word is they're firing the head of NBC. What a great thing to do. How smart. That's what the word. Who knows? With these people, you never know."

A classic in the Trump rhetorical catalog. *I hear someone might get fired. But that could change. Who knows?* By doing this, Trump injects the idea into the minds of his supporters and forces some level of media coverage -- even if it's very skeptical. He does all of that [without a single shred of evidence that NBC News President Andrew Lack is getting fired](#).

7. "But when I start screaming 'fake news,' you see those red lights go off for a little while. You know, excuse me, we have technical difficulties, OK, then they go back. "

So. The President of the United States is alleging, with no proof, that TV cameras are faking technical difficulties when he starts talking about "fake news." Which is weird, because I watched him say this line on TV last night.

LIKE WHAT YOU'RE READING?

Check out the latest analysis from [The Point with Chris Cillizza](#):

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- The [definitive ranking of 2020 Democrats](#)

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3. "But are they going to talk about the thousands and thousands of people inside of this arena and outside of the arena, where we put screens? No."

The Indianapolis Star reported that [all of the arena's 11,000 seats were full](#) -- and that people "spilled out onto the floor."

4. "These are just dishonest, terrible people. I'm telling you that. Terrible people."

Trump's attack on the media came on the same day that a [California man was charged for making violent threats against reporters for the Boston Globe](#). He insisted that the media was "the enemy of the people." [Sound familiar?](#)

5. "They do suppression polls. You know what a fake poll is. It's called a suppression. They make you think you can't win, so you go to see a movie."

This is not a thing. Or at least not a thing any credible, mainstream media outlet would get anywhere near. What Trump means is that sometimes polls don't come out well for

8. "It's tough to have a network where you're calling them 'fake news' and they're supposed to be proud."

[narrator voice] It's not tough at all, actually.

9. "That just shows when you get good ratings, you can say anything."

He said the quiet part out loud! If you needed Trump's view on the media -- and on life more generally -- condensed into a single sentence, this would be the sentence I would write. If you listen closely enough to Trump, he always tells you exactly what he thinks, and who he is.

10. "We're so far ahead of schedule."

11. "I gave Mike, a little while ago, something that I saw -- but he's seen it -- the Indianapolis Star did a story,

and I guess it's a poll of some kind. Joe Donnelly rated least effective Democrat in Senate in a new study."

Two things: 1) [Here's the study Trump is referencing](#) and 2) It's amazing how Trump sees zero hypocrisy in calling the media "dishonest, terrible people" one moment and then citing a mainstream media story to make a point that is good for him.

12. "Today's Democrat Party is held hostage by left-wing haters, angry mobs, 'deep state' radicals, establishment cronies, and their fake news allies."

This is a pretty remarkable thing for a president -- even Trump -- to say. The opposition party is haters, angry mobs, people who make up the news, swamp-dwellers and embedded bureaucrats working to bring down his presidency. What's even scarier is that I think he may genuinely believe it.

13. " You can have the biggest story about Hillary Clinton -- I mean, look at what she's getting away with. But let's see if she gets away with it."

Trump never specifies what Clinton is "getting away with." Doesn't matter. The crowd erupts in an extended "Lock Her Up!" chant. What are we locking her up for? No one seems to know!

14. " All I can say is, our Justice Department and our FBI -- at the top of each, because inside, they have incredible people -- but our Justice Department and our FBI have to start doing their job right and doing it right and doing it now."

This is more "deep state" conspiracy stuff. Remember that the head of the Justice Department -- Jeff Sessions -- was a top Trump supporter during the campaign and was hand-picked by the President for this job.

15. "What's happening is a disgrace."

A Republican president offers his thoughts on his own Justice Department.

16. "I wanted to stay out. But at some point, if it doesn't straighten out properly -- I want them to do their job -- I will get involved, and I'll get in there, if I have to."



Related Article: Joe Biden's McCain eulogy just explained exactly what's wrong with American politics

Trump, translated: The Justice Department better start pursuing my personal whims -- or else.

17. "Republicans stand for stopping illegal immigration, fixing bad, horrible, obsolete trade deals, unleashing American energy, cutting taxes, supporting our militaries and our great vets, our great, great vets."

Great vets like, say, John McCain?

18. "But of the nine, eight of them were crying. And I looked at the ninth, crying out of happiness, because they're back."

Trump relayed to the crowd that he ran into nine coal miners backstage in Evansville -- and they were all weeping out of happiness for what he has done for the coal-mining industry. The chances this story is actually true? 50-50.

19. "I actually asked them, I said, did they do polling when Honest Abe Lincoln was around? You know what? Nobody's been able to give me that answer, but I'm assuming they did. OK? So we can say we're

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Donald Trump just said he is more popular right now with Republicans than Abe Lincoln was in his time. What a sense of history!

20. "These -- this is a group of gang members -- I can't say 'animals' anymore, because Nancy Pelosi got very angry when I called them animals. I called them animals. She went crazy. I can't do it."

[Here's what Pelosi actually said:](#) "When the President of the United States says about undocumented immigrants, 'these are not people, these are animals,' you have to wonder, does he not believe in the spark of divinity? In the dignity and worth of every person? 'These are not people, these are animals,' from the President of the United States."

21. "We're doing a great job. And we have really no laws to work with. We have really no laws to work with. The laws are horrible. Laws are the worst and dumbest in the history of the world."

A real quote from the President of the United States.

22. "I pick up. I said hello. He goes, 'Trump, this is Bobby Knight, and you got to run for president. Our country needs you.' And I said that's Bobby Knight. That's Bobby Knight. Right? That's Bobby Knight."

Knight, the famous/infamous longtime basketball coach at Indiana University, was a prominent Trump supporter.

23. "But I had two big stacks -- you'll see pictures of me in the office, you'll see these massive stacks."

Stacks on stacks.

24. "We were on center stage of every single debate, right? Every single debate. Center stage means we were never in second place."

The re-telling of his positioning on the stage in 2016 primary debates is so, so Trump. Being center stage means he was in first, the big winner, the one everyone wanted to look at and talk about. This is his life goal.

25. "We love winners. We love winners. Winners are winners."

[nods head knowingly]

26. "Did you say the fake news tried to fake out Tiger? They didn't do too well. Tiger's sharp."



Related Article: Donald Trump just keeps claiming things he said on tape aren't real

Woods was asked at a tournament this week about his relationship with Trump. [Here's what he said:](#) "We've played golf together. We've had dinner together. I've known him pre-presidency and obviously during his presidency." Asked whether his friendship with Trump amounted to tacit support for the President's policies, Woods responded: "He's the President of the United States. You have to respect the office," he said. "No matter who is in the office, you may like, dislike personality or the politics, but we all must respect the office."

27. "No, we love winners. We love winners. "

So, let me get this straight. Winning is good? And we like winners?

28. "And we're the talk of the world. I'll tell you, every foreign leader who comes to see me, almost, they walk

in and they start off, Mr. President, congratulations on the incredible success you're having with your economy. Congratulations. Everything. Almost everyone."

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29. "See, you have to understand, I have a better education than they do from a much better school, but -- the elite. They're the elite. They're the elite. I went to better schools, I went to better everything. And by the way, by the way, are you ready for this? And I'm President, and they're not."

The key to understanding so much of what Trump says and does is this: He believes himself to have always been mocked by the so-called "elites." He has always felt like the guy on the outside looking in, the person the people he wanted to be ignored and and laughed at. Trump's life has been motivated by a singular desire to prove all of those people wrong. "I'm president and you're not," is the sort of thing you might expect to hear from someone in fifth grade. But that grade-school mentality is how Trump looks at the world.

30. "If Crooked Hillary came here, if she had 300 to 500 people -- first of all, she wouldn't be in this building. She'd be in a hotel conference room. It would be a conference room, right?"

The 2016 election ended 661 days ago.

31. "And I'm not saying -- I'm just saying. I'm not saying it's -- I'm just saying, something incredible is happening with our country to have this."

So, is he saying? Or not saying? I'm confused.

32. "And for the first time ever, really -- and we have a lot of great programs to help -- for the first time ever, employers are hiring prisoners."

This is not, um, the first time that employers are hiring ex-prisoners.

33. "And I have a friend who hired prisoners. I said, 'Whoa, that's great.' And he said, 'You wouldn't believe how great they are. They're better than my other people.'"

"Whoa, that's great." -- President Donald Trump

34. "It's such a beautiful name, clean power. Clean power, right?"

Uh, yes?

35. "When there's thousands of birds laying at the base of the windmill, what do we do? Isn't that amazing?"

Amazing is, I guess, a word for it?

36. "If your house is staring at a windmill, not good. When you hear that noise going 'round and 'round and 'round, and you're living with it, and then you go crazy after a couple of years, not good."

"How Windmills Make You Crazy," By Donald Trump

37. "Because we've put mechanisms in work -- lots of different -- I won't bore you with the complications -- it's actually -- we had middlemen that were so rich they were making a fortune on drugs, prescription drugs."

"You know, a lotta ins, lotta outs, lotta what-have-you's. And, uh, lotta strands to keep in my head, man. Lotta strands in old Duder's head." -- Jeffrey "The Dude" Lebowski.

38. "Our veterans are the greatest. ... These are, really, our greatest people, as far as I'm concerned."

Like, say, John McCain?

39. "I guess I'm good at getting things passed, but it was great."

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[Mars Awaits!](#)

41. "We are standing up for the heroes who protect America."

Like, say, John McCain?

42 . "We're going to win so much that you're going to be begging me, 'Please, please, Mr. President, the people of Indiana cannot continue to win like this. We're not used to this. This is terrible!'"

"Terrible Winning" would be a good band name.

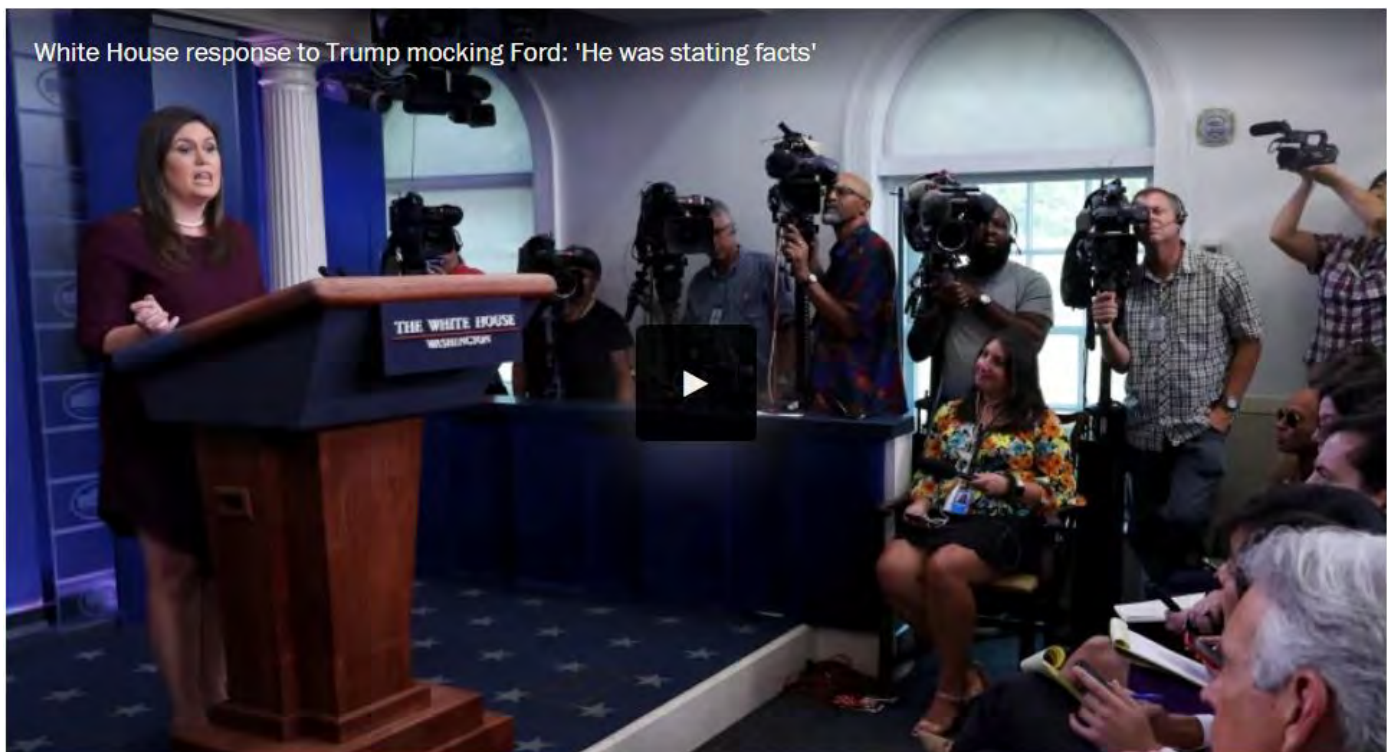
43. "I don't give a damn what they want. We're going to keep on winning."

"Too much winning can be wonderful." -- Mae West/Donald Trump

Exhibit 24

Style • Perspective

Dishing up lies while proclaiming the love of facts, Trump and Sarah Sanders gaslight America



By **Margaret Sullivan**

Media columnist

October 4

President Trump's assault on truth — and would-be truth-tellers — has hit a new low.

It may not seem possible, considering that this is a president who has misled or lied to the public [thousands of](#)

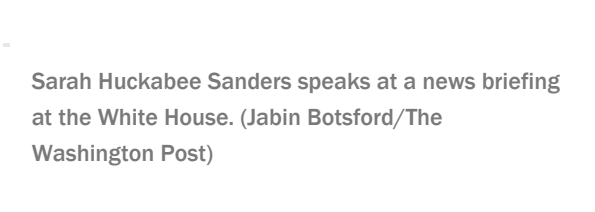
[times](#).

But consider what happened in a White House news briefing Wednesday afternoon. Then consider this week's rushed and [restricted FBI investigation](#) of Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh. And, finally, consider the administration's response to the [New York Times's groundbreaking investigation](#) of Trump family finances that was published this week.

There can be no doubt: We're in a whole new phase of the Orwellian nightmare in which black is called white, and you'd better not dare object to that.

In White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders's briefing Wednesday, she blatantly lied in describing her boss's ridicule, at a rally the night before, of Christine Blasey Ford. (Imagine the volume of lies we'd be subjected to if these "daily" briefings happened more frequently than once every few weeks.)

Anyone who saw [Trump's performance](#) could observe that he was cruelly mocking the California professor who has accused Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her when they were in high school — all to the delight of his laughing and cheering crowd.

 Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks at a news briefing at the White House. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

Michael Bromwich, one of Ford's attorneys, aptly described what Trump did as "vicious, vile and soulless."

But Sanders countered reporters' repeated questions about it by stating that the president was

merely reciting the facts of the case. She ignored the reality that the supposed facts he gave (for example, that Kavanaugh's accuser didn't know whether the alleged assault happened upstairs or downstairs) contradicted what Ford had said last week to a global audience under oath.

And — this was rich — Sanders offered the idea that facts, not emotion, should decide whether Kavanaugh should be confirmed.

"A very contemptuous, evasive and unhelpful performance even by Sanders standards," tweeted Daniel Dale, Washington correspondent for the Toronto Star and one of the straightest shooters among those who cover the White House.

Then — perhaps worse still — there's the extremely restricted FBI investigation that, according to [new reporting in the New Yorker](#) and elsewhere, did not include the testimony of knowledgeable people who wanted to cast light on the allegations against Kavanaugh.

Sanders spouted the GOP line that the White House had given the FBI free rein.

But as [The Washington Post reported](#): "Even before the investigation ended, several people who said they had information that could be useful said they ended up mired in bureaucracy when they tried to get in touch with the FBI."

And the bureau was even reportedly restricted from exploring whether Kavanaugh had lied under oath about his alcohol use.

The New Yorker's Ronan Farrow and Jane Mayer [wrote](#) that potential witnesses "have been resorting to sending statements, unsolicited, to the Bureau and to senators, in hopes that they would be seen before the inquiry concluded."

The fact that the report was completed well ahead of the one-week deadline adds to the undeniable conclusion that this was far less a search for truth in a complex and perhaps unknowable situation, and much more an old-fashioned whitewash.

Yet we're supposed to believe that any questioning of this amounts to "moving the goal posts."

That's classic gaslighting, which longtime Trump observer (and "Art of the Deal" ghostwriter) Tony Schwartz [once described](#) as "a blend of lying, denial, insistence and intimidation designed to fuel uncertainty and doubt in others about what's actually true."

The gaslighting extended, too, to Trump's reaction to a meticulously reported and far-reaching New York Times investigation of Trump's crooked family finances.

The report was — according to Trump, his lawyer and Sanders — completely false and defamatory. They haven't addressed the specifics, except to say that a lawsuit against the Times may be forthcoming.

Add that to the list of things that are best not to believe. (My colleague Paul Farhi wrote about how often [Trump threatens to sue](#), and how little tends to come of those threats.)

Now add in the disparagement of reporters that we've seen worsen in recent days: Trump's gratuitous [insult of ABC's Cecilia Vega](#) was another new low.

Each instance of gaslighting, each contemptuous denial of what we've seen or heard, each shameless lie threatens to move us farther from the shared reality we need as functioning citizens.

"It's all so confusing," said the woman seated next to me on a flight from Texas last week as the Kavanaugh hearings were concluding.

Predictable as all of this is, it's deeply disturbing. Or it ought to be.

But it's hard to maintain a sense of outrage, or certainty, when the lies and obfuscation just keep coming.

The sheer exhaustion — understandable as it is — might be the most dangerous problem of all.

For more by Margaret Sullivan visit [wapo.st/sullivan](https://www.washingtonpost.com/stories/sullivan/)



Margaret Sullivan Margaret Sullivan is The Washington Post's media columnist. Previously, she was the New York Times public editor, and the chief editor of the Buffalo News, her hometown paper. **Follow** ☐

Exhibit 25

The New York Times

Inside What Even an Ally Calls Trump's 'Reality Distortion Field'

From nonexistent riots to conspiracy theories about migrants to false claims about his popularity and job-creating record, the president has offered a litany of falsehoods in the midterm campaign.



By **Peter Baker** and **Linda Qiu**

Oct. 31, 2018

As he barnstorms the country trying to help Republican allies, President Trump has offered voters this fall a litany of misleading statements and falsehoods that exaggerate even legitimate accomplishments and distort opponents' views beyond the typical bounds of political spin.

In the past couple of weeks alone, the president has spoken of riots that have not happened, claimed deals that have not been reached, cited jobs that have not been created and spun dark conspiracies that have no apparent basis in reality. He has pulled figures seemingly out of thin air, rewritten history and contradicted his own past comments.

The catalog of inaccurate claims ranges from the weighty to the head-scratching.

He has asserted that construction has begun on his border wall (it has not), that he is one of the most popular American presidents in history (he is not), that he “always” opposed the Iraq war (he did not), that the stock market reopened the day after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 (it did not), that his tax cut was the largest in history (it was not) and that the United States is the only country that guarantees citizenship to those born here (it is not).

As he embarks on a final eight-state, 11-rally blitz before Tuesday's midterm elections, Mr. Trump has hammered Democrats — not just for their actual policy positions but for some they have not taken. He accused them, without proof, of helping to orchestrate a caravan of Central American migrants; complained that Democrats had opposed opioid legislation when in fact they universally voted for it; and asserted that they would not protect patients with pre-existing conditions — even though that was the heart of President Barack Obama's health care program.

Mr. Trump's penchant for prevarication has been a well-documented hallmark of his presidency. He dismisses journalists who point out his falsehoods as nit-pickers who do not understand that he is speaking a larger truth that resonates with many Americans. Supporters at his rallies across

the country tell reporters that they understand he may not be strictly accurate in his roaring stump speeches, but they see him as a champion of their values.

Still, even some in Mr. Trump's orbit acknowledge that this campaign season has brought out a torrent of untruths that, they worry, distracts from a record he should be proud to outline factually. "If you want me to say he's a liar, I'm happy to say he's a liar," said Anthony Scaramucci, who served a highly abbreviated 11-day stint as White House communications director last year and says he remains an enthusiastic supporter.

Speaking on CNN last week as he promoted a new book, Mr. Scaramucci was invited to offer his advice directly to the camera as if he were addressing Mr. Trump. "You should probably dial down the lying," Mr. Scaramucci said, "because you don't need to do it. You're doing a great job for the country."

Mr. Scaramucci said the president created his own truth for the purposes of storytelling. "He definitely has a reality distortion field around himself where he curves facts toward himself," Mr. Scaramucci said on NBC's "Today" show. "He's living in that bubble."

Here are 15 of Mr. Trump's most egregious falsehoods since Oct. 22, fact-checked by category.

Immigration



Immigrants from Honduras resting as they travel with a caravan toward the United States. Mr. Trump has made the caravan a campaign issue. Todd Heisler/The New York Times

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

We're the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States ... with all of those benefits.

— Interview with Axios, Oct. 30

False.

At least 30 other countries, including Mexico and Canada, grant automatic birthright citizenship, according to studies from the Center for Immigration Studies and Numbers USA, two groups that support restricting immigration.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

There's a town in California where they actually tried to take over the town council. All illegal aliens running the town council.

— Campaign rally in Charlotte, N.C., Oct. 26

False.

While there are a few examples of unauthorized immigrants participating in local government in California, there are no cities governed by them, nor do any hold elective office in the state.

“I can’t think of any such place in California and am unaware of any place in California where you could even vote for city council as a noncitizen, not to speak of serving in elected office,” said Taeku Lee, a professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley. “Seems like another made-up fact intended to stoke the fears of the president’s base.”

Els de Graauw, a professor of political science at the City University of New York, agreed. “I know that requirements can vary across offices and levels of government, but I cannot think of a municipality where noncitizens can run for public office,” she said.

In 2015, two undocumented immigrants were appointed to city advisory boards in Huntington Park, Calif. Earlier this year, the California State Senate appointed Lizbeth Mateo, an unauthorized immigrant and well-known immigration activist, to an advisory committee that helps increase college attendance among low-income students. None of these immigrants were elected to city councils.

Gov. Jerry Brown of California recently vetoed a bill that sought to allow undocumented immigrants and legal residents who are not American citizens to sit on state boards and commissions that have more than an advisory role.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

Mr. Trump: They say it happens all the time from the Middle East. But that’s not even saying bad or good. But some real bad ones. But they intercept...

Reporter: But no — no proof that they’re in the caravan now?

Mr. Trump: Well, they could very well be.

Reporter: But there’s no proof?

Mr. Trump: There’s no proof of anything. There’s no proof of anything. But they could very well be — if you look at what that was building.

— Remarks to reporters at the White House, Oct. 23

This lacks evidence.

Reporters traveling with the caravan have denied Mr. Trump’s baseless suggestion that there are Middle Eastern terrorists in the caravan. The Department of Homeland Security said citizens from “countries in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and elsewhere are currently traveling through Mexico toward the U.S.” without offering any proof.

Counterterrorism officials told The Times that there was no credible threat that terrorist groups were trying to infiltrate the border. Government data shows that citizens from the Middle East made up less than 1 percent of people apprehended at the border in the 2017 fiscal year.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

Do you know how the caravan started? Does everybody know what this means? I think the Democrats had something to do with it.

— Campaign rally in Houston, Oct. 22

This lacks evidence.

For the past couple of weeks, Mr. Trump has repeatedly accused Democrats of supporting or even financing the migrant caravan. He has yet to offer proof of these claims.

The Times has reported that the caravan apparently started out as a small group in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, but swelled amid publicity from Honduran television as migrants joined it to escape poverty and violence. Although Democrats (and some Republicans) have opposed some Trump administration border policies, Democrats have supported legislation to improve border security.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

Mr. Trump: You shouldn't have — take a look. They want to get out of sanctuary cities. Many places in California want to get out of sanctuary cities.

Reporter: But that's not rioting, sir, right?

Mr. Trump: Yeah, it is rioting in some cases.

Reporter: Where are the riots, sir?

— Remarks to reporters at the White House, Oct. 22

This lacks evidence.

A few locales in California, including Orange County and San Diego County, have voted to support a Trump administration lawsuit against California's so-called sanctuary city laws, under which local law enforcement authorities must limit their cooperation with federal immigration enforcement officials.

But there is no evidence that these laws have led to riots anywhere. The California Police Chiefs Association told PolitiFact that it was unaware of any riots, and Mr. Trump did not respond when asked to specify the location of the riots he cited.

His Own Record

Supporters of Mr. Trump at a political rally in last week Murphysboro, Ill. Doug Mills/The New York Times

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

You know, many presidents don't get a chance to put a Supreme Court justice on. Here we are, less than two years, we've put two of them on. Right?

— Campaign rally in Mosinee, Wis., Oct. 24

False.

All but four American presidents have appointed justices to the Supreme Court, according to the Congressional Research Service. No vacancies occurred on the court during the presidencies of William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor and Jimmy Carter. (Mr. Harrison was president for just a month before dying in office, and Mr. Taylor was in the White House for 16 months.)

President Andrew Johnson also nominated one justice, but was thwarted by Congress, which lowered the number of jurists allowed to be seated on the court.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

And I was always critical of President Bush for attacking Iraq.

— Interview with The Wall Street Journal, Oct. 23

False.

Throughout the 2016 presidential campaign, Mr. Trump repeatedly and falsely claimed to have opposed the Iraq war from the beginning. In 2002, asked if he supported an invasion, Mr. Trump responded, “Yeah, I guess so.” Mr. Trump spoke out against the war in 2004, a year after it began. It did not stop him from supporting President George W. Bush in the 2004 election.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

I went to Saudi Arabia on the basis that they would buy hundreds of billions — many billions of dollars’ worth of things. And the ultimate number is around \$450 billion, \$110 for military. \$450 billion. I think that’s over a million jobs. A million to over a million jobs.

— Remarks to reporters at the White House, Oct. 23

False.

Mr. Trump has celebrated an arms deal that was reached with Saudi Arabia last year, but his figures are wildly inflated.

The Times reported last year that the \$110 billion refers to the value of military capabilities *offered* to Saudi Arabia, characterized by the government as “intended sales.” The State Department estimated that, as of Oct. 16, the agreement has resulted in \$14.5 billion in implemented deals.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency lists about \$17 billion in total approved sales since Mr. Trump’s trip in May 2017, and that figure includes a \$15 billion missile defense system that has since stalled.

Last year, the Trump administration also trumpeted \$270 billion in possible commercial deals, which double-counts some of the agreements in the arms package. It is unclear what Mr. Trump is referring to with the \$450 billion figure.

As for “over a million jobs” — an increase over the “hundreds of thousands of jobs” Mr. Trump claimed last year — that figure also is suspect. Almost all of the jobs announced as a result of the potential sales were in Saudi Arabia, not the United States.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

But I’m one of the most popular presidents in this country, and that’s good. That’s just good.

— Rally in Houston, Oct. 22

False.

Several polls show the opposite: Mr. Trump is among the least popular presidents in American history.

A CNN poll gave Mr. Trump a 40 percent favorable rating, compared with 61 percent for Mr. Bush and 66 percent for Mr. Obama, as of January. A February poll by the University of Virginia and Ipsos gave Mr. Trump the third-lowest rating of the 12 most recent presidents.

Health Care and the Environment

"The total amount of opioids being prescribed has decreased by nearly 20 percent in a very short period of time," Mr. Trump said, a claim that lacks crucial context. Julio Cortez/Associated Press

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

The total amount of opioids being prescribed has decreased by nearly 20 percent in a very short period of time. I'm very proud of that.

— Remarks on the opioid crisis at the White House, Oct. 24

This requires context.

Mr. Trump cited the 20 percent decrease as one of his administration's accomplishments "over the past 20 months." But according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the opioid prescribing rate dropped by more than 19 percent between 2006 and 2017 — so Mr. Trump did not preside over that almost 20 percent decline.

C.D.C. data shows there was an 11 percent drop in the total number of prescriptions between 2016 and 2017.

Dr. Andrew Kolodny, a co-director of opioid policy research at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, said overprescriptions of all medicinal drugs had been falling steadily since 2011. A further drop has been widely credited to Center for Disease Control guidance that was issued in 2016 and aimed at reducing the rate of prescriptions.

On the campaign trail in October, Mr. Trump has said legislation to combat opioid abuse with \$6 billion in funding was approved by the Senate with "very little Democrat support." In fact, support for the legislation was nearly unanimous; the only vote against it was cast by Senator Mike Lee of Utah, a Republican.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

Republicans will totally protect people with Pre-Existing Conditions, Democrats will not! Vote Republican.

— Twitter post, Oct. 24

False.

Legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act last year was widely supported by Mr. Trump and Republicans in Congress, and opposed by Democrats. Most of the repeal plans would have undermined protections for patients with pre-existing conditions.

In August, Republican senators announced legislation to preserve protections for pre-existing condition if the Affordable Care Act was dissolved. Even so, the bill would allow insurers to refuse to cover certain illnesses.

This spring, the Justice Department told a federal court that it would no longer defend provisions in the health law that protect people with pre-existing conditions. By October, the Trump administration released new guidance allowing states to offer subsidies to patients, as provided by the Affordable Care Act. The guidance encourages buying cheaper plans that offer fewer benefits and can exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

"America: the Cleanest Air in the World — BY FAR!"

— Twitter post, Oct. 24

False.

The map Mr. Trump shared in his tweet appeared to be an altered version of a map from a World Health Organization report on exposure to air pollution. While the image does show Americans breathing relatively healthy air, nowhere in the report does it say that the United States has the cleanest air in the world.

The World Health Organization's database on air pollution shows that eight countries — Canada, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, New Zealand, Australia and Brunei — have cleaner air than the United States.

Trade and the Economy

A factory that makes steel parts in Italy. Gianni Cipriano for The New York Times

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

We don't even have tariffs. I'm using tariffs to negotiate. I mean, other than some tariffs on steel — which is actually small, what do we have?

— Interview with The Wall Street Journal, Oct. 23

False.

In addition to steel, Mr. Trump has imposed tariffs on washing machines, solar panels, aluminum, Canadian lumber and \$250 billion worth of goods from China. His administration also placed tariffs on Canadian newsprint, but those were overturned in August by the United States International Trade Commission. Mr. Trump has also threatened to impose tariffs on cars, uranium and an additional \$267 billion in Chinese goods.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

They wouldn't meet with Obama, the European Union. Japan wouldn't meet with Obama. And they wouldn't meet with us either.

— Interview with The Wall Street Journal, Oct. 23

False.

From 2013 to 2016, the European Union and the United States engaged in 14 rounds of talks over a trade agreement known as the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a deal that was never signed. Mr. Obama personally and repeatedly met with European Union leaders during the negotiations.

Additionally, the United States and Japan were both signatories to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the trade deal negotiated by the Obama administration and 12 Pacific Rim nations. Mr. Trump abandoned the deal early in his presidency.

WHAT MR. TRUMP SAID

I remember Dick Grasso, a friend of mine, great guy. He headed up the New York Stock Exchange on Sept. 11. And the New York Stock Exchange was open the following day.

— Campaign rally in Murphysboro, Ill., Oct. 27

False.

The New York Stock Exchange, blocks from the World Trade Center, did not open the day after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It reopened on Sept. 17, 2001. Mr. Grasso attended the opening ceremony, along with Rudolph W. Giuliani, the mayor of New York at the time and now Mr.

Trump's personal lawyer.

Katie Rogers and Abby Goodnough contributed reporting.

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A version of this article appears in print on Nov. 1, 2018, on Page A14 of the New York edition with the headline: Along Campaign Trail, a Litany of Untruths

Exhibit 26



Fact Checker Analysis

President Trump has made 6,420 false or misleading claims over 649 days

By [Glenn Kessler](#) ,
[Salvador Rizzo](#) and
[Meg Kelly](#)

November 2

If President Trump's torrent of words has seemed overwhelming of late, there's a good reason for that.

In the first nine months of his presidency, Trump [made 1,318 false or misleading claims](#), an average of five a day. But in the seven weeks leading up the midterm elections, the president made 1,419 false or misleading claims — an average of 30 a day.

Combined with the rest of his presidency, that adds up to a total of 6,420 claims through Oct. 30, the 649th day of his term in office, according to [The Fact Checker's database](#) that analyzes, categorizes and tracks every suspect statement uttered by the president.

The flood of presidential misinformation has picked up dramatically as the president has barnstormed across the country, holding rallies with his supporters. Each of those rallies usually yields 35 to 45 suspect claims. But the president often has tacked on interviews with local media (in which he repeats the same false statements) and gaggles with the White House press corps before and after his trips.

So that adds up to 84 claims on Oct. 1, when he held a rally in Johnson City, Tenn.; 83 claims on Oct. 22, when he held a rally in Houston; and 78 claims on Oct. 19, when he held a rally in Mesa, Ariz.

Put another way: September was the second-biggest month of the Trump presidency, with 599 false and misleading claims. But that paled next to October, with almost double: 1,104 claims, not counting Oct. 31.

The burden of keeping track of this verbiage has consumed the weekends and nights of The Fact Checker staff. We originally had planned to include Oct. 31 in this update, but the prospect of wading through 20 tweets and the nearly 10,000 words Trump spoke that day was too daunting for our deadline.

The president's proclivity to twist data and fabricate stories is on full display at his rallies. He has his greatest hits: 120 times he had falsely said he [passed the biggest tax cut in history](#), 80 times he has asserted that the [U.S. economy today is the best in history](#) and 74 times he has [falsely said his border wall is already being built](#). (Congress has allocated only \$1.6 billion for fencing, but Trump also frequently mentioned additional funding that has not yet been appropriated.)

But there are many curious moments, too, suggesting the president is walled off from contradictory information.

In an [interview](#) with the Wall Street Journal, Trump emphatically denied he had imposed many tariffs. “I mean, other than some tariffs on steel — which is actually small, what do we have? . . . Where do we have tariffs? We don’t have tariffs anywhere,” he insisted. The newspaper responded by printing a list of \$305 billion tariffs on many types of U.S. imports.

Nearly 25 times, he has claimed that Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh was No. 1 in his class at Yale University or at Yale Law School. The law school does not rank, and Kavanaugh graduated cum laude from the college — the third level, below summa cum laude and magna cum laude. At the time, Yale [granted honors rather liberally](#), so nearly 50 percent of the class graduated with honors, with half of those cum laude.

This is one of those facts that can be easily checked with a Google search, yet the president persists with his falsehood.

Similarly, Trump attacked Richard Cordray, a Democrat running for governor in [Ohio](#), for having spent \$250 million on renovating the building for the agency he once ran, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. That was almost double the actual cost. Oddly, Trump added that after Cordray spent “\$50 million on some elevators, it turned out they didn’t work.”

Trump lives in expensive housing, but that’s a fantasy. The [most expensive elevator ever](#) is the 1,070-foot-high Bailong Elevator, set in a Chinese mountain range. It cost \$20 million.

Thirteen times, Trump [invented whole-cloth stories](#) about Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), the lead plaintiff in a steadily advancing lawsuit that could open up the Trump Organization’s books to lawmakers. Trump falsely claimed Blumenthal said he was a war hero and fought in Vietnam’s Da Nang province. “We call him ‘Da Nang Richard.’ ‘Da Nang’ — that’s his nickname,” Trump said. Blumenthal described his military record in misleading or false terms on a few occasions before he was elected to the Senate in 2010, but he never said he fought in the theater. Trump also said Blumenthal dropped out of the Senate race (no), barely won anyway (no) and was crying when he apologized (no).

“It’s like liberating, like a war, like there’s a foreign invasion. And they occupy your country. And then you get them out through whatever. And they call it liberation,” Trump declared in Mosinee, Wis., on Oct. 24. Some audience members began yelling, “Get the hell out.”

This dystopian vision of a violent gang overrunning cities and towns across the United States is divorced from reality. MS-13 operates in a few areas such as Los Angeles, Long Island and the Washington region. It’s a gross exaggeration to say that towns are being liberated from MS-13, as if they had been captured.

Most striking, the tone of Trump's attacks on Democrats escalated the closer the election approached. The president always had slammed Democrats, but his rhetoric became sharper and increasingly inaccurate in recent weeks.

"They want to erase our gains and plunge our country into a nightmare of gridlock, poverty, chaos and, frankly, crime, because that's what comes with it," he said on Oct. 4. "The Democrat Party is radical socialism, Venezuela and open borders. It's now called, to me — you've never heard this before, the Party of Crime. It's a Party of Crime, it's what it is. And to pay for their socialism, which is going to destroy our country."

On Oct. 18, in Missoula, Mont., Trump falsely said no one even challenges his description of the Democrats as the party of crime. "Democrats have become the party of crime. It's true. Who would believe you could say that and nobody even challenges it. Nobody's ever challenged it," he said.

But then he had an unusual moment of doubt. "Maybe they have. Who knows? I have to always say that, because then they'll say they did actually challenge it, and they'll put like — then they'll say he gets a Pinocchio. So maybe they did challenge it, but not very much."

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Glenn Kessler

Glenn Kessler has reported on domestic and foreign policy for more than three decades. Send him statements to fact check by [emailing him](#), [tweeting at him](#), or sending him a message on [Facebook](#). Follow



Salvador Rizzo

Salvador Rizzo is a reporter for The Fact Checker. He previously covered New Jersey politics, courts, state finances and Gov. Chris Christie, with stints at the Star-Ledger, the Bergen Record and the Observer.

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Meg Kelly

Meg Kelly produces video and reports for the Fact Checker. She previously covered the 2016 election for NPR where she was a visual producer. Follow

Exhibit 27 is a video file that is stored on electronic media filed concurrently with this application.

Exhibit 28 is a video file that is stored on electronic media filed concurrently with this application.

Exhibit 29



Jim Acosta

@Acosta

Follow

I've just been denied entrance to the WH.
Secret Service just informed me I cannot
enter the WH grounds for my 8pm hit

7:46 PM - 7 Nov 2018

40,624 Retweets **108,216** Likes



59K 41K 108K

Exhibit 30

**Sarah Sanders**

@PressSec

[Follow](#)

President Trump believes in a free press and expects and welcomes tough questions of him and his Administration. We will, however, never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job as a White House intern...

7:48 PM - 7 Nov 2018

26,512 Retweets · **102,626** Likes

79K



27K



103K



Exhibit 31



Sarah Sanders

@PressSec

Case 1:18-cv-02610-TJK Document 3-25 Filed 11/13/18 Page 2 of 2

Follow

This conduct is absolutely unacceptable. It is also completely disrespectful to the reporter's colleagues not to allow them an opportunity to ask a question. President Trump has given the press more access than any President in history.

7:50 PM - 7 Nov 2018

9,581 Retweets 38,192 Likes



11K 9.6K 38K



Exhibit 32



Rob Elgas

@RobElgasABC7

Follow



this is garbage. and everyone saw what happened

Sarah Sanders @PressSec

President Trump believes in a free press and expects and welcomes tough questions of him and his Administration. We will, however, never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job as a White House intern....

Show this thread

7:50 PM - 7 Nov 2018

29 Retweets 181 Likes



25 29 181

Exhibit 33



Jim Acosta

@Acosta

Follow



The US Secret Service just asked for my credential to enter the WH. As I told the officer, I don't blame him. I know he's just doing his job. (Sorry this video is not rightside up)



7:52 PM - 7 Nov 2018

Exhibit 34 is a video file that is stored on electronic media filed concurrently with this application.

Exhibit 35



Katie Rogers

@katierogers

Follow

First part is questionable, second part didn't happen.

Sarah Sanders @PressSec

President Trump believes in a free press and expects and welcomes tough questions of him and his Administration. We will, however, never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job as a White House intern...

Show this thread

7:57 PM · 7 Nov 2018

124 Retweets 394 Likes



37 124 394

Exhibit 36

**Jeff Mason** ✓

@jeffmason1

[Follow](#)

I was seated next to [@Acosta](#) at today's press conference and did not witness him "placing his hands" on the young intern, as the White House alleges. He held on to the microphone as she reached for it. The [@Reuters](#) pictures below depict what happened accurately.



8:25 PM - 7 Nov 2018

18,404 Retweets 45,431 Likes



8.3K 18K 45K

Exhibit 37

**Sarah Sanders**

@PressSec

[Follow](#)

We stand by our decision to revoke this individual's hard pass. We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video.



10:33 PM - 7 Nov 2018

30,701 Retweets **96,369** Likes

82K 31K 96K

Exhibit 39



Rafael Shimunov

@rafaelshimunov

Follow



- 1) Took @PressSec Sarah Sanders' video of briefing
- 2) Tinted red and made transparent over CSPAN video
- 3) Red motion is when they doctored video speed
- 4) Sped up to make Jim Acosta's motion look like a chop
- 5) I've edited video for 15+ years
- 6) The White House doctored it



3:34 AM - 8 Nov 2018

Exhibit 40



Post Partisan Opinion

Sarah Sanders's diabolically clever attack on Jim Acosta

By Molly Roberts

“This is a lie.”

That was CNN reporter Jim Acosta's response to White House press secretary Sarah Sanders's [accusation](#) that he had placed “his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job.”

The [original](#) video of Acosta's (non-) altercation with a press aide shows the aide grabbing the microphone in Acosta's hand and Acosta's wrist landing on her arm as he gesticulates downward. The version of the video Sanders [shared](#) late last night, courtesy of Infowars, makes Acosta's movement appear accelerated so that he seems the aggressor, and the movement itself seems aggressive. There is a tortuous [debate](#) over to what extent the clip was deliberately distorted, but the effect is clear enough. Acosta looks like Sanders wants him to.

So Acosta is right: This is a lie. But no one agrees on what the truth is anymore, and that's exactly what Sanders was counting on.

Sanders's decision to reframe pure anti-press sentiment as a blow struck from the moral high ground against a physical abuser is ludicrously hypocritical — and remarkably canny. A favorite narrative of conservatives over the past nine months has been that the mainstream media is conspiring to destroy the lives of men, and Republican men in particular, with false allegations of sexual assault. There was Roy Moore, there was Brett M. Kavanaugh, and of course there is President Trump himself.

The concerns that conservatives broadcast about unsubstantiated allegations of assault are based on the premise that these accusations are cast wildly without any regard for the capital-T Truth. But they're not. There is no leap of journalistic faith required to believe stories in publications from the New Yorker to the New York Times to The Post. These stories are carefully vetted: The accused have a chance to respond. The potentially exculpatory is included right alongside the incriminating. The press certainly reported unproven allegations against Kavanaugh, but reporters were consistently up front about what we knew and what we didn't.

Sanders is cleverly compelling progressives to prop up a Republican talking point: False allegations exist, and people will pay attention to them. When Acosta's defenders cry out against Sanders, she can cry right back that the liberals are the ones who always insist on believing women — and that the press does not care about abuse when it is one of its own who is accused. Reporters are forced to defend both their reporting on abuse allegations and their colleague who Sanders alleges is himself an abuser.

It's also clever because Sanders knows the Trumpian base to whom she is pandering will believe her. As much as the right wing is primed to doubt conspicuously careful reporting from legacy outlets, they are ready to accept without question unvetted tales from the administration and "alternative" sources such as Infowars. And those alternative sources are ready, with the help of automated accounts, to spread those stories far and wide. So to many Americans, the altered altercation footage featuring Jim Acosta, notorious abuser of women, is the real thing.

This is the surest way to wage a war against the press. Americans live in split realities, and Sanders knows it. She is inverting a narrative that has already inflamed conservatives against the press to inflame them further, playing on anger about assault allegations to amplify distrust and division. It's working. After all, no matter which side you're on, you're probably pretty mad right now.

**Molly Roberts**


Molly Roberts writes about technology and society for The Post's Opinions section. Follow 

Exhibit 41



WHNPA

@whnpa

Follow



(1/2) The WHNPA is appalled to learn that the White House spokesperson may have shared a manipulated video of CNN reporter Jim Acosta's interaction with a White House intern during a news conference. As visual journalists, we know that manipulating images is manipulating truth.

4:57 PM - 8 Nov 2018

52 Retweets 68 Likes



7



52



68



Tweet your reply



WHNPA @whnpa · Nov 8

(2/2) It's deceptive, dangerous and unethical. Knowingly sharing manipulated images is equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country's highest office with vast influence over public opinion.



2



28



53



Exhibit 42

White House press secretary tweets misleading video from InfoWars personality to justify revoking CNN reporter's credentials

By [Oliver Darcy](#), [CNN Business](#)

Updated 7:14 PM ET, Thu November 8, 2018

New York (CNN) — White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders seized on a misleading video apparently first posted by a far-right personality associated with fringe media organization InfoWars as a basis for indefinitely suspending the press credentials of CNN's chief White House correspondent.

On Wednesday evening, Sanders [released a statement](#) announcing that the White House had revoked the hard pass — a credential that permits speedy entry to the White House grounds — held by CNN's chief White House correspondent, Jim Acosta.

In the statement, Sanders falsely accused Acosta of "placing his hands" on a White House intern as she attempted to aggressively remove the microphone from his hands during a contentious press conference exchange with President Donald Trump.

Later that night, Sanders [said in a tweet](#) that the White House stood by its decision to revoke Acosta's credentials, writing, "We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video."

But the video she was referring to, which was included in her tweet, didn't come directly from one of the many cameras that had been at the press conference. Instead, it appeared to have come from Paul Joseph Watson, an editor-at-large for InfoWars, a media organization known for peddling conspiracy theories and hateful content. Such behavior resulted in InfoWars being banned earlier this year by most major social media platforms.

Moreover, it did not accurately portray what happened — it appears to show Acosta's arm moving in a downward motion towards the intern's faster than it actually did.

It's unclear exactly where Sanders first saw the video or where she got it from. When she was asked on Thursday about the video and the misleading way it portrayed the incident, Sanders said, according to a White House pool report, "The question is did the reporter make contact or not? The video is clear, he did. We stand by our statement."

CNN emailed Sanders later Thursday and asked her how the video came to her attention and whether she was aware of Watson's background and whether she had vetted the video herself before posting it. She referred CNN back to the statement.

On Twitter, Watson strongly denied having edited the video in a deliberately deceptive fashion. Watson said that the only editing he did was to zoom in on the area around Acosta's hand.

Watson did provide a clue as to how the video may have inadvertently come to show a misleading version of the incident, however. He said that the basis for the video he posted was not raw footage or even a clip taken directly from a network. Instead, Watson said, he had downloaded a GIF, edited it, and exported the final product as a video.

A GIF is a media file that compresses video by removing a significant number of frames from it. It allows individuals to show moving images without uploading large files.

It's possible that the processes and technology involved in creating a GIF, downloading that GIF, editing it as a video and re-uploading it could have created the discrepancy between what the video Sanders posted shows and what the original video from the press conference clearly showed.

Whatever happened, the White House press secretary tweeted from her official account a misleading video to justify the punishment of a journalist, and sparked a debate over which video should be believed. That has people who monitor disinformation online, who have worried about the impending arrival of technology that will be able to seamlessly alter video to create the impression that people are saying or doing things they haven't done, very concerned.

It's widely expected that internet trolls, partisans and perhaps even rogue states will ultimately seize on sophisticated video manipulation to advance their causes. But the fact that the spokesperson for the President of the United States tweeted a misleading video and then stood by it underscored the danger and wide-reaching impact of the possible information wars.

In a Thursday afternoon statement, Whitney Shefte, president of the White House News Photographers Association, said, "As visual journalists, we know that manipulating images is manipulating truth. It's deceptive, dangerous and unethical. Knowingly sharing manipulated images is equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country's highest office with vast influence over public opinion."

At BuzzFeed, Charlie Warzel [summed up those concerns](#), writing, "The entire ordeal is a near-perfect example of a scenario disinformation experts have predicted and warned of, where the very threat of video manipulation can lead to a blurring of reality."

Exhibit 43

AP**Expert: Acosta video distributed by White House...**

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Expert: Acosta video distributed by White House was doctored

By DAVID BAUDER and CALVIN WOODWARD November 8, 2018



Trending on AP News

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Officials: Teen shot by mother while sleeping has died

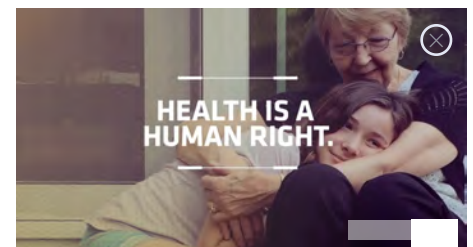
NEW YORK (AP) — A video distributed by the Trump administration to support its argument for banning CNN reporter Jim Acosta from the White House appears to have been doctored to make Acosta look more aggressive than he was during an exchange with a White House intern, an independent expert said Thursday.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders tweeted the video, which shows Acosta asking President Donald Trump a question on Wednesday as the intern tries to take his microphone away. But a frame-by-frame comparison with an Associated Press video of the same incident shows that the one tweeted by Sanders appears to have been altered to speed up Acosta's arm movement as he touches the intern's arm, according to Abba Shapiro, an independent video producer who examined the footage at AP's request.

by Tabx

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Earlier, Shapiro noticed that frames in the tweeted video were frozen to slow down the action, allowing it to run the same length as the AP one.

The tweeted video also does not have any audio, which Shapiro said would make it easier to alter. It's also unlikely the differences could be explained by technical glitches or by video compression — a reduction in a video's size to enable it to play more smoothly on some sites — because the slowing of the video and the acceleration that followed are "too precise to be an accident," said Shapiro, who trains instructors to use video editing software.



An independent video production trainer tells the AP a video tweeted by the White House on an interaction between CNN reporter Jim Acosta and an intern appears to have been manipulated to make the reporter's actions look more aggressive. (Nov. 8)

Sanders, who hasn't said where the tweeted video came from, noted that it clearly shows Acosta made contact with the intern. In her statement announcing Acosta's suspension, she said the White House

Expert: Acosta video distributed by White House...[Top Stories](#)[Topics](#) ▾[Video](#)[Listen](#)

While the origin of the manipulated video is unclear, its distribution marked a new low for an administration that has been criticized for its willingness to mislead.

The White House News Photographers Association decried the sharing of the footage.

“As visual journalists, we know that manipulating images is manipulating truth,” said Whitney Shefte, the association’s president. “It’s deceptive, dangerous and unethical. Knowingly sharing manipulated images is equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country’s highest office with vast influence over public opinion.”

CNN has labeled Sanders’ characterization of Acosta’s exchange with the intern as a lie. Its position has been supported by witnesses including Reuters White House correspondent Jeff Mason, who was next to Acosta during the news conference and tweeted that he did not see Acosta place his hands on the White House employee. Rather, he said he saw him holding on to the microphone as she reached for it.

“The irony of this White House video involving Jim Acosta is that if it is found to be doctored, it will show the administration to be doing what it accuses the news media of doing — engaging in fake information,” said Aly Colon, a professor in journalism ethics at Washington & Lee University.

Several journalists and organizations — including the American Society of News Editors, the Associated Press Media Editors and the Online News Association — demanded Acosta’s press pass be reinstated.

“It is the essential function of a free press in every democracy to independently gather and report information in the public interest, a right that is enshrined in the First Amendment,” said Julie Pace, AP’s Washington bureau chief. “We strongly reject the idea that any administration would block a journalist’s access to the White House.”

The New York Times editorialized in favor of restoring Acosta’s pass, saying it signaled Trump’s view that asking hard questions disqualifies reporters from attending briefings. The newspaper said that if Sanders was so offended by physical contact, “what did she have to say when her boss praised as ‘my kind of guy’ Rep. Greg Gianforte of Montana, who was sentenced to anger management classes and community service for body-slammng a Guardian reporter last spring?”

CNN has been a frequent target of the president, who has characterized journalists as enemies of the people and who routinely accuses the mainstream media of spreading “fake news.” And Acosta has been one of the more visible thorns in the side of the White House. During their verbal altercation on Wednesday, Trump called Acosta a “terrible person.”

Expert: Acosta video distributed by White House...

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During Lyndon Johnson's presidency, the Secret Service denied clearance to Robert Sherrill, a reporter for The Nation who had gotten into physical fights with government officials. During the George W. Bush presidency, Trude Feldman, who worked for various news outlets, was suspended for 90 days after security cameras recorded her looking through a press aide's desk late one night. In the 1970s, President Nixon tried to get Washington Post reporters banned from the White House.

Despite losing his White House pass, Acosta is expected to travel to Paris this weekend to cover Trump's trip to meet with world leaders.

Calvin Woodward reported from Washington. Associated Press journalists Jill Colvin, Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller, Tami Abdollah, Padmananda Rama and Deb Reichmann contributed from Washington.

The Latest: WH video appears manipulated, producer says

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New SC Democrat won't back Pelosi 'under any circumstance'

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina's newest congressional ...

-38 mins ago

Exhibit 45



CNN WORLDWIDE

One Time Warner Center, New York, NY 10019

JEFF ZUCKER

President

212-275-9756

jeff.zucker@turner.com

November 8, 2018

Dear General Kelly,

It is unfortunate that we are compelled to write again so soon after the unlawful exclusion of Kaitlan Collins from a public White House event this past July. In response to our written protest at that time, we were given assurances from your staff that efforts would be made to improve communications with respect to the treatment of our White House reporters.

Based on those assurances, we were shocked to learn that Jim Acosta was denied access to the White House when he showed up for work Wednesday evening. To our knowledge, no complaints were raised with CNN and there was no attempt to reach anyone at CNN before taking this unlawful action. Instead, a White House staffer circulated a distorted video from a known conspiracy website as an after-the-fact justification for this illegal action. However, it is evident from the real video that, just as with Kaitlan Collins, the White House simply did not like the content of the questions posed to the President. In both instances, the nature and tone of the questions was appropriate and newsworthy.

This is now the third instance where CNN journalists were targeted for exclusion by this administration. As we wrote previously, CNN will not let this pattern of targeted harassment of its journalists remain unchallenged. To that end, we request Mr. Acosta's credentials be reinstated immediately. If no such assurances are received, CNN will take the necessary legal actions to preserve our first amendment rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Zucker', is written over a printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'J' and 'Z'.

cc: Emmet Flood

Exhibit 46



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By CHRISTOPHER BRITO / CBS NEWS / November 8, 2018, 4:24 PM

White House accused of sharing "doctored" video of CNN reporter, intern exchange

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Less than a day after **banning CNN reporter Jim Acosta** from the White House, press secretary Sarah Sanders is facing additional scrutiny after sharing an edited video clip that showed Acosta's brief exchange with an aide over a mic. Among the critics was a CNN executive who called it "a doctored video – actual fake news."

The White House said Wednesday it was suspending Acosta's "hard pass," which allows him press access to the White House, because it will "never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job as a White House intern."

"This is a lie," **Acosta tweeted** in response to that statement.

The incident in question occurred during a White House press conference Wednesday, when Acosta was trying to ask President Trump a question about whether his **campaign rhetoric** "demonized immigrants." "That's enough. That's enough," Mr. Trump said, and tried to move on to another reporter, but Acosta persisted with his questioning.

At that point, a White House intern reached over and tried to take the microphone away from him. "Pardon me, ma'am," Acosta said to her as he hung onto the mic. (Watch the full video in the player above.)

Sanders shared an edited version of the footage that slows down the intern's approach to Acosta and then appears to speed up on the journalist's arm movement. "We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video," she wrote in a **tweet**.

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Thousand Oaks shooter was actively posting on Instagram during shooting



President Trump blasts California's forest management, threatens to withhold federal disaster funds



President Trump in France to mark 100 years since the end of World War I



Death toll from California wildfires has climbed to at least 11



Wildfires in California have killed at least 9, destroyed thousands of homes, and left many homeless



Sarah Sanders
@PressSec

We stand by our decision to revoke this individual's hard pass. We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video.

100K 10:33 PM - Nov 7, 2018

120K people are talking about this

Journalists and others on social media criticized Sanders for distributing the video, which created the appearance that the encounter was more "violent" than it actually was.

White House video was doctored, analyst says

0:57

"Absolutely shameful," CNN vice president of communications and digital partnerships **Matt Dornic** **tweeted**. "You released a doctored video – actual fake news. History will not be kind to you."



andrew kaczynski
@KFILE

The video shared by the White House to justify banning Jim **@Acosta** appears to be a doctored video created by an Infowars editor.

The video slows down the intern's approach/speeds up Acosta's arm movement, making it appear more violent. [businessinsider.com/jim-acosta-vid...](https://www.businessinsider.com/jim-acosta-vid...)

4,470 8:21 AM - Nov 8, 2018



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Can't watch the 2018 E! People's Choice Awards tonight? Here's the list of winners so far.

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6m



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@CBSNews

E! People's Choice Awards: Scarlett Johansson wins female movie star of 2018

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White House appears to share Jim Acosta mic grab video doc...

Sarah Huckabee Sanders is accused of using a video of CNN's Jim Acosta doctored by Infowars as justification for suspending the [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com)

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Rafael Shimunov 🔥
@rafaelshimunov

- 1) Took @PressSec Sarah Sanders' video of briefing
- 2) Tinted red and made transparent over CSPAN video
- 3) Red motion is when they doctored video speed
- 4) Sped up to make Jim Acosta's motion look like a chop
- 5) I've edited video for 15+ years
- 6) The White House doctored it

191K 3:34 AM - Nov 8, 2018

93.5K people are talking about this



Asha Rangappa
@AshaRangappa_

.@PressSec you are seriously tweeting out an obviously doctored video – from InfoWars no less – to substantiate a false accusation of assault against a journalist???

The standard for libel against a public figure is acting with “actual malice,” and your tweet is Exhibit A.

Sarah Sanders @PressSec

We stand by our decision to revoke this individual's hard pass. We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video.



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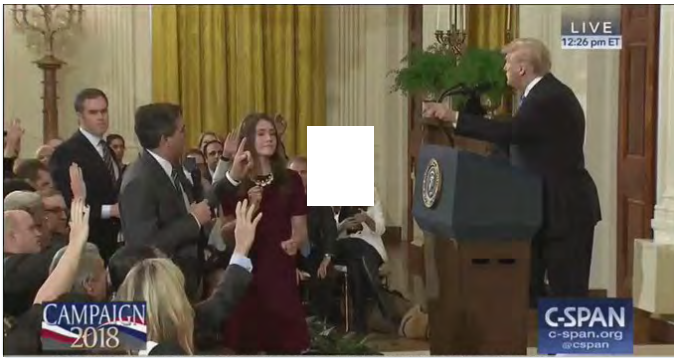


Trump criticized for "demeaning" comments about California fires



E! People's Choice Awards 2018: Winners and highlights

E! People's Choice Awards 2018 list of winners



47.6K 6:51 AM - Nov 8, 2018

[19.9K people are talking about this](#)

Reporters from CNN, **Newsweek**, the **Washington Post** and other outlets traced the origins of the edited video and said it was **first posted** by a commentator associated with Alex Jones' right-wing conspiracy site, InfoWars.

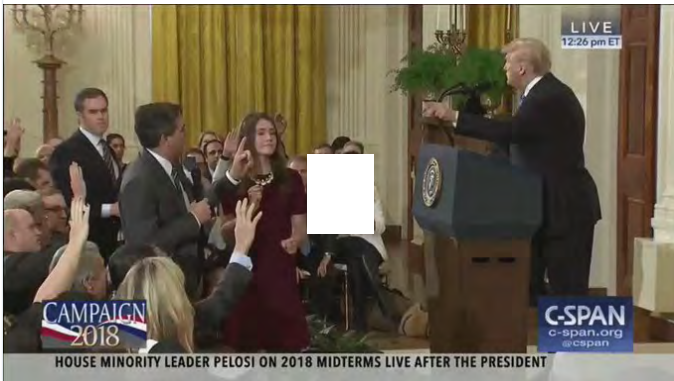
**Nicole Goodkind**

@NicoleGoodkind

This is a video that Infowars made. They sped it up so that it seems more violent than it is.

Sarah Sanders @PressSec

We stand by our decision to revoke this individual's hard pass. We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video.



2,774 11:42 PM - Nov 7, 2018

[1,350 people are talking about this](#)**Brian Stelter**

@brianstelter

Question for @PressSec: Where'd you obtain the distorted @Acosta video you posted? InfoWars personality @PrisonPlanet posted the same video two hours before you did. Surely you don't trust InfoWars...?

24.6K 12:52 AM - Nov 8, 2018

[9,548 people are talking about this](#)

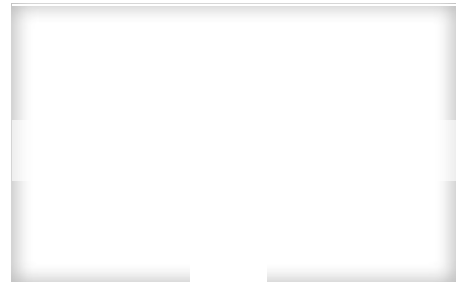
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05

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Sanders stuck by the White House statement — and the video — on Thursday.

"The question is: did the reporter make contact or not? The video is clear, he did.
We stand by our statement," Sanders told the press pool.

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Exhibit 47

Reporters condemn White House decision to bar CNN's Acosta

By [Brian Stelter](#), [CNN Business](#)

Updated 3:32 PM ET, Thu November 8, 2018

New York (CNN Business) — Reporters from many news organizations have expressed support for CNN's Jim Acosta after the White House revoked his press pass.

The "hard pass," which speeds up entry to the White House grounds, was suspended by the Trump administration on Wednesday night "until further notice." Why? Because of Acosta's [combative exchange](#) with President Donald Trump at his post-midterms press conference.

It is unclear whether Acosta will be turned away again on Thursday. It also remains to be seen whether White House reporters will walk out, or show solidarity with Acosta and CNN in other ways.

Acosta is CNN's chief White House correspondent. He was trying to reenter the White House grounds for a live shot on "Anderson Cooper 360" when he was stopped by Secret Service officers. Within minutes, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders had announced the suspension.

"This is a test for all of us," Acosta told Cooper later. "I do think they are trying to shut us down, to some extent, inside the White House press corps." Acosta said he thought the suspension was also an attempt to "send a message to our colleagues."

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CNN and several major journalism advocacy groups denounced the White House's move. The Radio Television Digital News Association, which represents newsrooms across the country, called the revocation "unconscionable."



Related Article: White House pulls CNN reporter Jim Acosta's pass after contentious news conference

Reporters and historians said it was hard to recall a similar episode.

"White House staff don't pull passes over personal pique, only over threats to the president," professor Martha Joynt Kumar, director of the White House Transition Project, told CNN.

No one is suggesting that Acosta threatened President Donald Trump. But right-wing websites and pro-Trump commentators alleged that Acosta mistreated a White House intern who tried to take a microphone away from him during the press conference.

Trump's boosters used words like "pushed" and "slammed." They screamed "assault" and "abuse." Sanders cited this alleged "inappropriate behavior" to suspend Acosta's pass. But all of this is contradicted by the video, which shows Acosta holding onto the mic and saying "pardon me, ma'am,"

when the intern tries to take it away.

"I was seated next to Acosta at today's press conference and did not witness him 'placing his hands' on the young intern, as the White House alleges," Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason wrote [on Twitter](#). "He held on to the microphone as she reached for it."

After asking a follow up question, [Acosta let go of the mic.](#)

CNN's critics defend Acosta

Even Chuck Ross of The Daily Caller, a website that harshly criticizes CNN, stood up for Acosta.

"Plenty to criticize Acosta about," Ross [wrote](#), "but he did not 'place his hands' on the intern. It's ridiculous for anyone to suggest he did."



Related Article: 64 truly remarkable lines from Donald Trump's otherworldly post-election news conference

Sanders defended her claim by posting a video on Twitter on Wednesday night. The same video was published about two hours earlier by Paul Joseph Watson, an editor-at-large for the Infowars website.

Both Sanders and Watson used the clip to attack Acosta, but the 15-second video has been distorted to make Acosta look menacing.

CNN said in a statement that Sanders "lied" on Wednesday night. "She provided fraudulent accusations and cited an incident that never happened," CNN said. "This unprecedented decision is a threat to our democracy and the country deserves better. Jim Acosta has our full support."

Press freedom groups also weighed in. The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press said Sanders' "false description of the events leading up to it is insulting not only to

the nation's journalists, but to its people."

The White House Correspondents' Association called the yanking of Acosta's pass "out of line" and "unacceptable."

"We urge the White House to immediately reverse this weak and misguided action," the association added.

The White House News Photographers Association's president Whitney Shefte issued a statement expressing outrage that Sanders "may have shared a manipulated video."

"As visual journalists, we know that manipulating images is manipulating truth," Shefte said. "It's deceptive, dangerous and unethical. Knowingly sharing manipulated images is equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country's highest office with vast influence over public opinion."

Revoke credentials? 'I wouldn't do that'

Senior journalists represented by the association also spoke up.

Hallie Jackson, of NBC, wrote on Twitter that the press corps "should stand up against this."

Peter Baker, of The New York Times tweeted, "This is something I've never seen since I started covering the White House in 1996." Baker wrote that he believes Trump called on Acosta at the presser because "he wants the confrontation."

**Peter Baker**

@peterbakernyt

False predicate to punish a reporter. This is what the president wants. If he really thought [@acosta](#) was unfair, then why did he call on him? Because he wants the confrontation.

Jeff Mason @jeffmason1

I was seated next to [@Acosta](#) at today's press conference and did not witness him "placing his hands" on the young intern, as the White House alleges. He held on to the microphone as she reached for it. The [@Reuters](#) pictures below depict what happened accurately.



4,556 8:32 PM - Nov 7, 2018

[2,044 people are talking about this](#)

Elisabeth Bumiller, the Washington bureau chief of The Times, [said](#), "The president should not pick and choose who covers him, and he should certainly not force out a representative of one of the country's leading news organizations."

In 2015 and 2016, Trump's campaign refused to give press credentials to reporters from several major news outlets, including the Washington Post and BuzzFeed.

When the issue came to a head in June 2016, Trump told CNN in an interview that, if elected, he would not revoke credentials. At the White House, "it's a different thing," he said.

"When I'm representing the United States, I wouldn't do that," Trump added.

Exhibit 48

The New York Times

Trump Administration Uses Misleading Video to Justify Barring of CNN's Jim Acosta

By Michael M. Grynbaum and Elizabeth Williamson

Nov. 8, 2018

The Trump administration relied on a misleadingly edited video from a contributor to the conspiracy site Infowars to help justify removing the credentials of CNN's chief White House correspondent, a striking escalation in President Trump's broadsides against the press.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, falsely accused Jim Acosta, the CNN journalist, of "placing his hands on a young woman," a White House intern, as Mr. Acosta asked questions that irked the president during a formal news conference on Wednesday.

Television footage showed that Mr. Acosta and the intern made brief, benign contact — "Pardon me, ma'am," the correspondent said — as she tried to take a microphone away from him at Mr. Trump's behest.

But Ms. Sanders posted a 15-second video clip on Twitter that misleadingly suggested Mr. Acosta had pushed the intern's upper arm. The clip was identical to one posted earlier by Paul Joseph Watson, an Infowars contributor, according to a forensic analysis by The New York Times.

"We will not tolerate the inappropriate behavior clearly documented in this video," Ms. Sanders wrote.

Infowars, which has been banned by platforms like Twitter and Facebook, is known for spreading conspiracy theories, including one pushed by its founder, Alex Jones, that the mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., was a hoax. Ms. Sanders — who once encouraged Americans to view the work of James O'Keefe, a right-wing activist, "whether it's accurate or not" — declined to say on Thursday why she had distributed the video from her official White House account.

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"The question is: Did the reporter make contact or not?" Ms. Sanders said in a statement. "The video is clear, he did."

There is no evidence the video has been faked. But the editing, including zooming in and repeating several frames, exaggerated the contact between Mr. Acosta and the intern. The low quality of the video, which briefly freezes either deliberately or because of a glitch, adds to the ambiguity, the analysis showed.

The removal of Mr. Acosta's credentials, which curbs his access to the West Wing and its staff, has little precedent in the modern White House. Past presidents have clashed with outspoken journalists like Sam Donaldson and Helen Thomas, but did not restrict their access.

Still, the move against Mr. Acosta, a frequent antagonist known for challenging the president during news conferences, was not entirely a surprise.

As a candidate in 2016, Mr. Trump barred journalists from Univision, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed News and Politico from attending his rallies. As president, he has popularized the phrases "enemy of the people" and "fake news" and threatened to pull broadcast licenses and change libel laws to make it easier to sue.

The daily White House press briefing has slowly vanished. In July, a CNN reporter was barred from a Rose Garden event because White House aides said she had asked questions too aggressively.

Mr. Trump and his political team are no doubt aware that Mr. Acosta is a useful foil. "CNN sucks!" is a common chant at the president's rallies, and there is little political downside for the administration to restrict access to one of the network's star correspondents. The move is likely to rile Mr. Trump's opponents, buoy his supporters and have little or no effect on those occupying the nation's shrinking middle ground.

And, as with most things Trump, nothing was cut-and-dried.

There was the timing: Mr. Acosta's credential was stripped hours after the president fired his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, and had to explain away a difficult midterm election that handed his Democratic antagonists control of the House. Political strategists observed that a controversy over press rights, instigated by the White House, would make for a useful ploy to distract journalists and perhaps the public.

Then there were the players: a showman president and an ambitious television correspondent in the spotlight.

Mr. Acosta sometimes elicits eye-rolls from others in the White House press corps, who wonder if his aggressive questions are meant less to draw out information from Mr. Trump than to create a camera-ready spectacle. "Most of the people there were serious reporters asking serious questions," Chris Wallace, the "Fox News Sunday" moderator, said of Wednesday's news conference. "But Jim Acosta, I thought, embarrassed himself."

Dozens of other journalists disagreed with that view, offering public support. The Washington Post's media columnist Margaret Sullivan, for one, advised CNN to sue the White House on First Amendment grounds.

The move against Mr. Acosta also came shortly after a pipe bomb turned up at CNN's New York headquarters. The suspect arrested in the case, Cesar Sayoc Jr., had been photographed at a Trump rally holding an anti-CNN sign, and the authorities found a "CNN Sucks" sticker on his van.

At Infowars, the imprimatur of the White House was a welcome development.

The site has lost a chunk of its audience since being banned by several major online platforms this summer, including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Apple's App Store. Mr. Watson, who rose to prominence on the site, has kept his social media and YouTube accounts, providing one of the few remaining means for Mr. Jones to reach a mainstream audience.

The video tweeted by Ms. Sanders makes it appear that Mr. Acosta is making forceful, sustained contact with the intern's arm. The Infowars video also has no sound, so that Mr. Acosta's "pardon me" is not heard.

"If you look at original, higher-quality videos from other vantage points, you can more clearly see that while there was some contact between the reporter and intern, he did not strike her as his hand comes down," said Hany Farid, a digital forensics expert at Dartmouth College who analyzed the clip for The Times.

The news conference was broadcast on major cable outlets, including the public affairs network C-SPAN, meaning that she had other options than to use a clip put together by a contributor to a notorious site.

Infowars seized on the publicity that went with Ms. Sanders's use of the clip, posting incendiary items under headlines like "Did Jim Acosta Assault a Woman?" Mr. Jones did not respond to a message left on his cellphone. Mr. Watson, who is based in Britain, did not respond to requests for comment.

In a video interview posted on Infowars on Thursday, Mr. Watson acknowledged to Mr. Jones that the clip had what he called "digital artifact problems."

"I ran it through like three different programs and re-uploaded it to Twitter, O.K.?" Mr. Watson said. "That's not doctoring. Doctoring is when you change the footage deliberately." He added: "The media invented a conspiracy theory to distract from Acosta's behavior. Sarah Sanders was perfectly correct in posting this video, which is genuine, and it proves her point that Acosta placed his hands on the woman to overpower her."

"You're right, Paul, he overpowered a woman," Mr. Jones interjected.

Mr. Acosta did no such thing. On Thursday, the White House News Photographers Association said it was “appalled” that the White House had distributed the Infowars clip.

“As visual journalists, we know that manipulating images is manipulating truth,” the group said in a statement. “It’s deceptive, dangerous and unethical. Knowingly sharing manipulated images is equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country’s highest office with vast influence over public opinion.”

Mr. Trump has made CNN into one of his marquee targets. In the summer of 2017, he used the @realdonaldtrump and @POTUS accounts to share a 28-second video that showed Mr. Trump himself violently wrestling to the ground an opponent with the CNN logo for a head. “#FraudNewsNetwork,” the president added as a comment.

CNN’s president, Jeff Zucker, has recently criticized Mr. Trump in unflinching language, calling his anti-press language a danger to journalists. On Wednesday, the network said the White House’s retaliation against Mr. Acosta was a “threat to our democracy.”

Christoph Koettl and David Botti contributed reporting.

A version of this article appears in print on Nov. 9, 2018, on Page A15 of the New York edition with the headline: White House Uses Deceptive Video to Justify Banning of CNN Reporter

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Exhibit 49

[News > World > Americas](#)

Jim Acosta: White House shares apparently doctored video posted by conspiracy site InfoWars to justify suspending CNN reporter's press pass

'We will not tolerate the inappropriate behaviour clearly documented in this video,' Sarah Huckabee Sanders says

Tom Embury-Dennis | @tomemburyd | 3 days ago | 196 comments

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The Independent US

The White House has shared footage posted by an editor of a conspiracy theory website showing **Jim Acosta** making contact with a Trump aide, in a bid to justify its **suspension of the CNN reporter's** press pass.

Mr Acosta "placed his hands on" a female aide trying to retrieve a microphone as the journalist repeatedly questioned the president, press secretary **Sarah Huckabee Sanders** claimed in a statement

posted to Twitter.

The incident occurred during a fiery press conference in which reporters and Mr Trump clashed over his **divisive rhetoric** in the run-up to the midterms.

Footage showed Mr Acosta attempting to keep the microphone during his questioning of Mr Trump, while the female aide tried three times to grab the microphone from him.

Watch more



White House suspends CNN reporter's press pass after Trump row

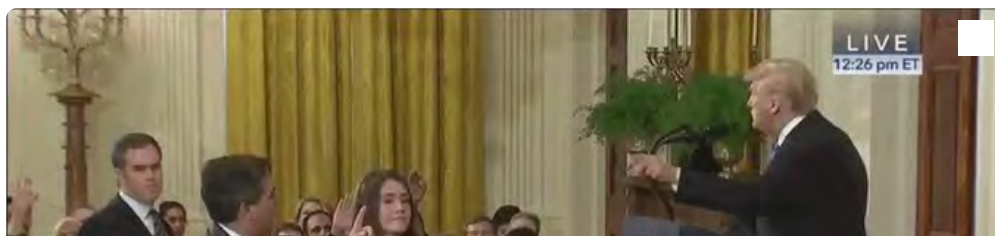
On her final attempt, Mr Acosta's free hand briefly blocks the aide's arm, as Mr Trump refuses to answer the reporter's questions.

Announcing Mr Acosta's suspension, Ms Sanders said the White House would "never tolerate a reporter placing his hands on a young woman just trying to do her job".

"As a result of today's incident, the White House is suspending the hard pass of the reporter involved until further notice," she wrote on **Twitter**.

She added: "The question is: did the reporter make contact or not? The video is clear, he did. We stand by our statement."

Late on Wednesday, Ms Sanders posted partial video footage of the incident, alongside a statement which read: "We stand by our decision to revoke this individual's hard pass. We will not tolerate the inappropriate behaviour clearly documented in this video."



The video, which has no audio and is of notably low quality, shows the moment Mr Acosta's hand blocks the aide's attempts to grab the microphone. It repeats the moment six times, each time zooming further into the brief moment of contact.

Many social media users accused Ms Sanders of posting footage which sped up the contact to make Mr Acosta's movement appear more aggressive.



The Independent



Should Britain allow fracking?

Yes – It makes economic sense to capitalise on the resources available to us and reduce dependence on foreign fuel imports

No – The environmental consequences are too great and the long-term effects uncertain

5

But according to analysis by *The Independent*, the video instead appears to have been doctored to freeze for three frames the moment before Mr Acosta's hand pushes down on the aide's arm.

Ms Sanders' tweet came exactly two hours after the same video was shared by Paul Joseph Watson, editor-at-large of **InfoWars**, a far-right conspiracy theory website fronted by Trump-supporter Alex Jones.

Mr Watson denied altering the footage in an interview with **Buzzfeed News**. He downloaded a gif file posted elsewhere, "zoomed in, saved it again as an mt2 file – then converted it to an mp4 [video file]", he told the site. He added: "Digitally it's gonna look a tiny bit different after processing and zooming in, but I did not in any way deliberately 'speed up' or 'distort' the video."

• **Trump attacks CNN's Jim Acosta in angry White House press conference** **Show all 10**





Mr Trump has long feuded with CNN and accused it of peddling “fake news” – the channel is one of his favoured punching bags. During the ill-tempered press conference on Wednesday, he singled out Mr Acosta as “rude”.

He has also threatened to revoke the broadcast licences of outlets whose content he dislikes, and stoked anger against journalists by denouncing them as the “enemy of the people”.

Speaking on CNN to colleague Anderson Cooper, Mr Acosta said: “I was just trying to ask a question of the president. It was obviously a question they didn’t like.

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“I do think this is a test for all of us. I do think they’re trying to shut us down.”

In a statement, CNN said the revocation of Mr Acosta’s credentials “was done in retaliation for his challenging questions at today’s press conference”.

The company said Ms Huckabee Sanders had “provided fraudulent accusations and cited an incident that never happened”. It added: “This unprecedented decision is a threat to our democracy and the country deserves better. Jim Acosta has our full support.”

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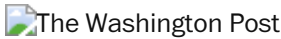
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Exhibit 50



Style

Sarah Sanders promotes an altered video of CNN reporter, sparking allegations of visual propaganda

By [Paul Farhi](#)

November 8

The Trump administration is plainly upset with the behavior of a certain CNN reporter. But how far is it willing to go to make its case that the reporter acted improperly during a news conference with President Trump?

One answer emerged Wednesday night when White House press secretary Sarah Sanders [tweeted a video of the episode](#), involving CNN's Jim Acosta, the network's chief White House correspondent. Experts said the video, in which Acosta is seen rebuffing a press aide's attempt to take a microphone out of his hands, was [altered to exaggerate the aggressiveness](#) of Acosta's actions.

If that is the case, the video may belong in a category rarely employed by democratic governments: visual propaganda.

The White House video, apparently made by a contributor to the conspiracy-peddling website [Infowars](#), speeds up the movement of Acosta's arms as the unidentified aide grabs at the mic during a heated conversation between the reporter and Trump. The video tweeted by Sanders also eliminated Acosta's comment to the young woman — "Pardon me, ma'am" — as he sought to continue questioning the president.

On Thursday, Sanders offered no apologies. "The question is: Did the reporter make contact or not?" she asked reporters a day after the White House revoked Acosta's press credentials for his alleged transgression. "The video is clear, he did. We stand by our statement."

The White House's actions and account of them has drawn widespread condemnation, particularly from journalists and news organizations. The [White House News Photographers Association](#), among others, said it was appalled by Sanders's video.

"As visual journalists, we know that manipulating images is manipulating truth," said the group's president, [Whitney Shefte](#), a Washington Post videographer. "It's deceptive, dangerous and unethical. Knowingly sharing manipulated images is equally problematic, particularly when the person sharing them is a representative of our country's highest office with vast influence over public opinion."

Totalitarian governments have long recognized the value of altering photos and videos to manipulate public opinion and perception. Officials were regularly airbrushed out of state photos in the Soviet Union as dictators such as Joseph Stalin purged internal enemies. Wartime governments regularly censor images or release them selectively to maintain popular order and morale.

Modern-day regimes vigorously employ digital techniques to fool viewers; North Korea's propaganda ministry routinely [alters images emanating from the isolated nation, from photos of leader Kim Jong Un's ears to state-issued pictures of the country's military prowess](#).

Such tactics have been irregularly employed in democracies like the United States, too. Political campaigns are rife with fake images. During his red-baiting campaign of the early 1950s, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) distributed doctored photos of his opponents to suggest communist sympathies, according to Boston University journalism professor [Christopher Daly](#). One ["composite" photograph](#) appeared to show Sen. Millard Tydings (D-Md.) deep in conversation with the head of the American Communist Party.

One of the most notorious instances of deliberate image manipulation by the White House, said Daly, was its presentation of [photos of the Gulf of Tonkin incident](#) in 1964. The photos, apparently showing a minor naval skirmish, helped persuade Congress to pass a resolution granting President Lyndon B. Johnson the authority to provide greater military assistance to the government of South Vietnam.

News organizations disapprove of altering photos and videos, on the premise that doing so deceives readers and viewers. News photos are cropped to better frame the action in them, and videos are edited to enhance clarity and storytelling — all considered legitimate practices. But some images are unethically altered. Judges in the annual World Press Photo competition have regularly [disqualified entries because of "excessive" post-processing](#), such as toning that removes or hides objects in a photo.

Among the most infamous examples of news-photo manipulation were [National Geographic's shot](#) of the Egyptian pyramids, "squeezed" together to fit on the magazine's cover in 1982, and Time magazine's [cover image of O.J. Simpson](#) in 1994. Time darkened Simpson's image, making him look more sinister and menacing.

While Sanders's Acosta tweet doesn't rise to Gulf of Tonkin levels, it raises several troubling questions, said [Emmett Sullivan](#), who lectures in [modern history and imagemaking](#) at the [University of London](#). He said that the video she distributed is identical to one by [Paul Joseph Watson](#), a conspiracy theorist affiliated with Alex Jones' Infowars site.

"The issue is then not one of manipulation, but simply judgment in sourcing your information," said Sullivan. "Why not use the C-SPAN feed directly? America can expect the president's press secretary to cite the best sources, and Sarah Sanders has failed the American people here."

In a tweet on Thursday, Watson disputed that his video was altered: “The media, with zero fact checking, launched a conspiracy claiming I ‘sped up’ or ‘doctored’ the Jim Acosta video so they could distract from Acosta’s behavior. This is false. I did not ‘doctor’ or ‘speed up’ anything. It was all fake news.”

Acosta, who has tangled often with the White House and Trump, tweeted that Sanders’s claim that he put his hands on the press aide was “a lie.”

Sullivan says governments are less likely than ever to knowingly pass off a fake. The reason: “It is simply too easy for the manipulation to be spotted now. It generates too much adverse publicity in the media and social media precisely because video is such a common medium of communication.”

Then again, technology has created a kind of “arms race” between tools that permit video and photo manipulation and those designed to sniff out the fakes, said [Hany Farid](#), a professor of computer science at Dartmouth College.

“Obviously releasing misleading or doctored information is problematic, particularly when done by our officials,” he said. But as the technology advances, he said, the question of what’s real and what’s not may be up for debate. “As the technology that allows us to manipulate images gets more sophisticated and easier to use, then the claim that a video is fake becomes more credible,” he said.

Farid points to another infamous piece of video to illustrate his point, the “Access Hollywood” [tape of Trump](#) bragging about forcibly kissing and groping women. When that recording was revealed in 2016, he said, “nobody said it was fake.” Since then, Trump has cast [doubt on its authenticity](#).

“If that recording broke today, he would’ve almost certainly say it is fake,” he said. And given the spread of digital-altering technology, he “would have had plausible deniability.”

**Paul Farhi**

Paul Farhi is The Washington Post's media reporter. He started at The Post in 1988 and has been a financial reporter, a political reporter and a Style reporter. [Follow](#)

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Exhibit 51

**REMARKS**

Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure

Issued on: November 9, 2018



South Lawn

9:05 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: So we're heading off to Europe. It should be a very beautiful period of time — the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War I. We have many countries; the leadership of many countries will be there, especially since they heard the United States will be there. And we look forward to that. It'll be a great, really, commemorative service. I think it's going to be something very special. I've seen what they have planned, and I think it's going to be something very, very special.

I just signed the proclamation on asylum. Very important. People can come in, but they have to come in through the ports of entry. And that, to me, is a very important thing. Again, I reiterate we need Democrats' votes. They have to pass new immigration laws, because they're flooding our country. We're not letting them in, but they're trying to flood our country. We need the wall; we're building the wall. But we need it all built at one time, and quickly. It's very important.

We need Democrat support on new immigration laws to bring us up to date. The laws are obsolete and they're incompetent. They are the worst laws any country has anywhere in the world. And it's only because we don't have the Democrats' votes. So we need Democrat vote so we can change immigration, and we'll have no trouble whatsoever at the border. We want people to come into our country, but they have to come into our country legally. They have to come into our country legally.

We want people to come in through the merit system so that they can work for all of these great companies that I have coming into our country. We have many car companies coming in. We have many tech companies coming in. We have literally hundreds of companies moving back into the United States. We need people. We need to have — you see the unemployment numbers are at record lows. We need people in our country, but they have to come in legally, and they have to have merit. They have to come in through a system of merit. We have everything worked out. We need some votes from the Democrats, or we need support from the Democrats, and hopefully they see what's going on.

And the reason this is happening is we've created such a successful country, economically, that everybody is flooding into our country, or they want to. But we're stopping them at the border. And that's why we have our great military there.

Q Mr. President, what do you say to all the criticism of Matt Whitaker and the calls for him to recuse himself, given what he said about the Russian (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Matt Whitaker — I don't know Matt Whitaker. Matt Whitaker worked for Jeff Sessions, and he was always extremely highly thought of, and he still is. But I didn't know Matt Whitaker. He worked for Attorney General Sessions. He was very, very highly thought of, and still is highly thought of. But this only comes up because anybody that works for me, they do a number on them.

But Matt Whitaker is a very smart man. He is a very respected man in the law enforcement community. Very respected; at the top of the line. And actually, the choice was greeted with raves, initially, and it still is in some circles. You know, it's a shame that no matter who I put in, they go after them. It's very sad, I have to say. But he's Acting. I think he'll do a very good job. And we'll see what happens.

But I will say this: Matt Whitaker is a very highly respected man, and you didn't have any problems with Matt Whitaker when he worked for Jeff Sessions. He's respected by law enforcement. He's a very strong law enforcement personality and person.

Q Mr. President, did you talk with Matt Whitaker at all about the Mueller probe before you appointed him?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't speak to Matt Whitaker about it. I don't know Matt Whitaker. Matt Whitaker has a great reputation, and that's what I wanted. I also wanted to do something which, frankly, I could have brought somebody very easily from the outside. I didn't want to do that. When Sessions left, what I did, very simply, is take a man who worked for Sessions. Again, he worked for Jeff Sessions. He's a highly respected man, especially by law enforcement. And I think he's going to do a great job. He's there in an acting position. He's a — probably, from what I hear — a very strong person, a very strong personality. And I think that's what they need.

Q Is Kellyanne's husband's wrong?

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

Q Kellyanne's husband wrote that the appointment was unconstitutional.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean Mr. Kellyanne Conway?

Q He wrote that you're unconstitutionally appointing him. He is wrong?

THE PRESIDENT: He's just trying to get publicity for himself. Why don't you do this: Why don't you ask Kellyanne that question, all right? She might know him better than me. I really don't know the guy.

Q Given Matt Whitaker's public comments, (inaudible) —

THE PRESIDENT: Well, when you make a comment —

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: First of all — let me speak, please. First of all, when you make comments, I see everybody on television — all these lawyers, all these law enforcement people making comment after comment. They never ask to get recused. They make comment. The fact that you go on Fox or CNN or MSNBC or anybody, and you make a comment, you'd have nobody left to choose. You would have absolutely nobody left.

I see different people, at different times, going on shows. Am I supposed to say, “Oh, now he’s never qualified to serve in government?” So, all the time I’m watching many different people go on many different shows, saying many different things. That doesn’t mean they’re unqualified.

Now, in all fairness to Matt Whitaker, who, again, I didn’t know — okay? — other than through reputation. His reputation is excellent. But in all fairness to him, he did some shows; so did many of the people that you’re talking about. So did everybody that — you’re talking about a permanent position. I think everybody looking at a permanent position, in any department, has done many shows. Does that mean we can’t hire anybody? We have to hire somebody that’s in a shell? I don’t think so.

Q Do you foresee a federal role in the Florida recount?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it again. You have to speak up.

Q I’m trying to. Do you foresee a federal role in the Florida recount, which you tweeted about last night?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it could be. Because if you look at Broward — and Palm Beach, to a lesser extent — if you look at Broward County, they have had a horrible history. And if you look at the person — in this case, a woman — involved, she has had a horrible history. And all of a sudden, they’re finding votes out of nowhere.

And Rick Scott, who won by — you know, it was close, but he won by a comfortable margin — every couple of hours it goes down a little bit. And then you see the people, and they were involved with that fraud of the fake dossier, the phony dossier. And I guess I hear they were somehow involved or worked with the GPS Fusion people, who have committed — I mean, if you look at what they’ve done, you look at the dishonesty —

Look, look, there’s — bad things have gone on in Broward County. Really bad things. She’s been to court. She’s had a lot of problems. She’s lost. I say this: He easily won, but every hour it seems to be going down. I think that people have to look at it very, very cautiously.

Q You’re finishing up the written answers —

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q You're doing the written questions to Robert Mueller. Have you ruled out a sit-down, an in-person sit-down with Robert Mueller?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't ruled out anything. I haven't even thought about it. I'm thinking about the world. Right now, I'm thinking about the world. I'm not thinking about sit-downs or not sit-downs. There was no collusion. It's a whole hoax. This was a thing set up by the Democrats, just like they set up other things — when you look at what's going on Florida; when you look at what's going on in lots of different locations.

The Russian investigation is a hoax. It's a phony hoax. I didn't speak to Russians. The fact is, I was a much better candidate than Hillary Clinton. I worked much harder. I went to the right places. She went to the wrong places, because she didn't know what the hell she was doing. I did a great job; I was a great candidate. She was a bad candidate.

I went to Wisconsin. I went more to Michigan. I went to Pennsylvania. She didn't do a good job. This has nothing to do with Russians; it's a Russian hoax.

Q What do you say to Michelle Obama who says she will never forgive you for your birther comments in the past?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Michelle Obama said that? I haven't seen it. I guess she wrote a book. She got paid a lot of money to write a book. And they always insist that you come up with controversial.

Well, I'll give you a little controversy back: I'll never forgive him for what he did to our United States military by not funding it properly. It was depleted. Everything was old and tired. And I came in, and I had to fix it. And I'm in the process of spending tremendous amounts of money. So I'll never forgive him for what he did to our military. I'll never forgive him for what he did in many other ways, which I'll talk to you about in the future.

But what he did — because she talked about safety — what he did to our military made this country very unsafe for you and you and you.

Q (Inaudible) and did you meet Chris Christie here, yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're looking at other people. I did not see Chris Christie yesterday. I heard he was in the White House. He's a friend of mine. He's a good man. When he got out of the presidential race, as you know, the next day he supported me. He has good taste. So he proved one thing: He has good taste. But when he got out, he immediately supported me. I like Chris Christie, but I have not talked to him about it. He was in the White House yesterday, but I did not see him.

Q Mr. President, how long are you going to leave Jim Acosta in the penalty box?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Jim Acosta is a very unprofessional man. He does this with everybody. He gets paid to do that. You know, he gets paid to burst in. He's a very unprofessional guy. Whether it was me or Ronald Reagan or anybody else, he would have done the same thing.

Look, I don't think he's a smart person, but he's got a loud voice. And —

Q Is it permanent?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, wait. David, do you mind if I answer the question?

Q Sure. Of course.

THE PRESIDENT: And as far as I'm concerned, I haven't made that decision. But it could be others also. When you're in the White House — this is a very sacred place to me. This is a very special place. You have to treat the White House with respect. You have to treat the presidency with respect. If you've ever seen him dealing with Sarah Huckabee Sanders, it's a disgrace. And he does it for, you know, the reason.

The same thing with April Ryan. I watched her get up. I mean, you talk about somebody that's a loser. She doesn't know what the hell she's doing. She gets publicity, and then she gets a pay raise or she gets a contract with, I think, CNN. But she's very nasty, and she shouldn't be. She shouldn't be.

You've got to treat the White House and the Office of the Presidency with respect.

I see her nodding very positively, so I'll ask her — you know.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: You have to speak up, though. You have a helicopter raging back —

For all the people that don't know why, my hearing is great, but you have a helicopter that's raging back there.

Q I'll help her out.

THE PRESIDENT: In fact, do you remember Ronald Reagan? He'd always, "What? What? I can't hear you." I never — I always thought he was hard of hearing; he wasn't. That's the problem.

Q She wants to know what's going to happen when you meet with Putin.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll meet with Putin at the G20. I don't know that we're seeing each other in Paris, but there may be a lunch for the leaders. I don't know. So I would say, nothing. We have a good relationship. Having a good relationship with Russia and China, and every other country, is a good thing, not a bad thing.

But we have a good — we have a very good relationship.

Q Are you going to fire Ryan Zinke?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I'm going to look into any complaints. David, if there are any complaints, I'll look into it.

Q Your thoughts about the judge's decision to delay the XL Pipeline?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it was a political decision made by a judge. I think it's a disgrace. It's 48,000 jobs. I approved it; it's ready to start. And they went — and I guess they'll end up going to the Ninth Circuit, as usual. We're slowly putting new judges in the Ninth Circuit. Everything goes to the Ninth Circuit. Everything.

Now, DACA, that was actually good news yesterday, because you never win in the Ninth Circuit if you're on this half of the equation. When I say "half," it could be half or more. But you never win;

you rarely win in the Ninth Circuit. The good news is, by rejecting DACA in the Ninth Circuit yesterday, finally we've been waiting for that. We get to the Supreme Court, and we want to be in the Supreme Court on DACA.

President Obama said he had no right to sign it. He had no right, but it was upheld in the Ninth Circuit, as usual. If you take President Obama's statement, he knew that he couldn't sign it. So this whole thing, it's a terrible thing what's happening with the courts. The DACA will now hopefully go to the Supreme Court, where we'll be given a fair decision.

Q U.N. Ambassador. Have you made a decision?

THE PRESIDENT: We'll be making a decision. I have so many people who want it. We are looking at Heather. We're looking at numerous people. We have plenty of time. Nikki is staying until the end of the year. We're working with Nikki, also. We have some very good people that want that job.

I'll make the decision over the next few weeks, but by the end of the year.

Q On the Attorney General, what's your timeline to make a decision? And who are the frontrunners?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have some very, very good people. But, I mean, there's no rush. You know, it has to go through a Senate process, which takes a long time. But we'll pick somebody that's great. We're going to pick somebody that's very good. And again, I think it's very — Matt Whitaker is a highly respected man, but I didn't know Matt Whitaker. But he's a highly respected man.

Q Mr. President, you said the Senate process. Matt Whitaker has not gone through a Senate process.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, but neither has Mueller.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me. You talk about the Senate process. Mueller is doing a report. He hasn't gone through the Senate process. You're saying Whitaker hasn't, but Whitaker has. Wait a minute. Because he was a really distinguished U.S. attorney in Iowa, and he was approved by everybody. Because to be U.S. attorney, that's top of the line. He was a highly respected.

In fact, I'll tell you, the Ambassador to China, as you know, Terry Branstad — who used to be the governor of Iowa — he told me that what a great choice that is; that he is one of the most respected people in all of Iowa. And that was coming from Terry Branstad, who was the governor.

Look, Mueller — a big complaint people have — Mueller was not Senate confirmed. So he's doing a report. He wasn't Senate confirmed. Whitaker was Senate confirmed. Now, he doesn't need this, but he was Senate confirmed at the highest level, when he was the U.S. attorney from Iowa. But Mueller was not Senate confirmed. Why didn't they get him Senate confirmed? He should have been Senate confirmed. No — but because of all the conflicts, they didn't want to bring him before the Senate because he's very conflicted. So because of those conflicts, they didn't want to bring him before the Senate.

But don't tell me about Whitaker. Don't tell me about Whitaker, because Mueller was not Senate confirmed, and Whitaker was, actually.

Q Mr. President, the Democrats keep picking up more seats in the House, now more than 31 seats. Can you still describe (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't — whether they get a couple of more House seats, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. But you notice the votes never go the other way? They hire lawyers, and the votes don't ever seem to go the Republican way — although I hear —

Q Do you have evidence of fraud?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know, you tell me. It's always the Democrats. It's always GPS Fusion. It's always crooked stuff.

Q But there's no evidence that you have, is there?

THE PRESIDENT: Look — look at what happened. How many FBI are gone? How many Justice Department people are gone? That I found out — that I found out. There's a lot of bad stuff going on in this country, and we're finding out, and I'm getting to the bottom of it. And I've done a hell of a job. How many people have been fired from the FBI? You got Comey, you got McCabe, you got Strzok, you have Lisa Page, you have Baker. You have a whole list of people. There's a lot of crooked stuff going on.

But it is interesting; it always seems to go the way of the Democrats. Now, in Arizona, all of a sudden, out of the wilderness, they find a lot of votes. And she's — the other candidate is just winning by a hair. What's going on in a Florida is a disgrace. Go down and see what happened over the last period of time — 10 years. Take a look at Broward. Take a look at the total dishonesty of what happened with respect to Broward County. Broward County — just (inaudible) — Broward County/election. There's a lot of dishonesty.

Q Why did your Press Secretary share a doctored video of the incident in the East Room? Of the (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: The taped video of Acosta?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What are you talking about? All that was —

Q The video is manipulated.

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody manipulated it. Give me a break. See, that's just dishonest reporting. All that is, is a close-up. See, that's just — that is just dishonest reporting. I watched that; I heard that last night. They made it close up. They showed it up close up.

And he was not nice to that young woman. I don't hold him for that because it wasn't overly, you know, horrible. But it was — but all that was — when you say "doctored," you're a dishonest guy. Because it wasn't doctored. They gave a close-up view. That's not doctoring.

Q Mr. President, are you thinking about more Supreme Court justices since Justice Ginsburg in the hospital?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wish her well. She said something very inappropriate during the campaign, but she apologized for it. I wouldn't say she's exactly on my side, but I wish her well. I hope she gets better. And I hope she serves on the Supreme Court for many, many years.

Q (Inaudible) another mass shooting, this time in California.

THE PRESIDENT: Terrible. Terrible.

Q What are we going to do about (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: He's a very sick — well, it's a mental health problem. He is a very sick puppy. He was a very, very sick guy. Not too many people knew about it. But now that they're looking, they're starting to see he had a lot of problems, a lot of trouble. And we're very much into that. As you know, I funded a lot of money toward mental health for that reason. And we're continuing to do it, and we continue to look at the laws. We want to make sure — look, it is a problem. It's a disastrous problem. It makes you sick to look at it. But he was a very, very mentally ill person.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Do firearms play any part of this mental health conversation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he was a war veteran. He was a Marine; he was in the war. He served time. He saw some pretty bad things. And a lot of people say he had the PTSD. And that's a tough deal. We're spending — as you know, I've given tremendous funding to the vets for the PTSD and for general health for PTSD. It's a big problem.

People come back. That's why it's a horrible thing. They come back, and they're never the same.

Q Are you prepared to fly that flag at half-mast a lot more?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't like abusing any privilege, but when I see something that we should do, I always do that. Yeah, I always do that. I believe you should. When somebody — when it's a worthy situation, I do believe it.

Q Do you expect Matt Whitaker to be involved in the Russia probe? Do you want him to —

THE PRESIDENT: It's up to him.

Q Do you want him to rein in Robert Mueller?

THE PRESIDENT: What a stupid question that is. What a stupid question. But I watch you a lot. You ask a lot of stupid questions.

Q (Inaudible) sign an executive order on birthright citizenship this week. Why did that not happen?

THE PRESIDENT: We're working. Well, because other things have come up, and we will be signing it soon.

Q Was it a political stunt?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no. Oh, we're signing it. We're doing it. And it'll probably work its way up to the Supreme Court. Birthright citizenship probably works its way up to the Supreme Court. It will be signed. We wanted a perfect document. And because of the election and all of the delays in the election, and whatever is going on in Broward County — remember the word, "Broward County."

Q Is there any evidence of fraud in Broward County?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait. Well, you take a look at the past. Take a look at the past.

Q Right now is there any?

THE PRESIDENT: And all of a sudden, they're finding votes? You mean after the election, they're finding votes? And then you look at her past, where she's already been convicted, and now they're finding votes. And you have this guy, Elias, who represented Hillary Clinton and a lot of very shady things. I think what you ought to do is get smart.

Good luck, folks. I'll see you in Europe.

END

9:28 A.M. EST

Exhibit 52

POLITICO



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"That's not altered," White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said of the footage. | Mark Wilson/Getty Images

WHITE HOUSE

Conway: White House didn't alter video of Jim Acosta

By BRENT D. GRIFFITHS | 11/11/2018 10:45 AM EST

Jim Acosta still owes a White House intern an apology, Kellyanne Conway said Sunday, scoffing at the notion that the White House posted doctored tape of Acosta pulling away from an intern as she tried to take back the microphone during a heated exchange between CNN's chief White House correspondent and President Donald Trump on Wednesday.

"Oh, well, that's not altered, it's sped up. They do it all the time in sports to see if there's actually a first down or touchdown," Conway told host Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday."

"So, I'm going to have to disagree with, I think, the overwrought description of this video being doctored as if we put somebody else's arm in there."

The video in question was tweeted out by White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Wednesday night in announcing the decision to suspend Acosta's press pass

and thus his access to the White House. Acosta and Trump had a tense exchange during a news conference earlier Wednesday, in which Trump called him "a rude, terrible person."

Acosta tried to continue asking a question as a staffer attempted to take the microphone away from him — the point at which, the White House claims, he "puts his hands on" the intern.

Morning Media

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By signing up you agree to receive email newsletters or alerts from POLITICO. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Independent experts have told reporters that the footage is doctored.

Multiple journalistic organizations, including the White House Correspondents' Association, have slammed the move. Acosta has said the notion he put his hands on the intern is "a lie," and CNN has said it stands behind one of its most prominent reporters.

ADVERTISING



Sanders' statement announcing the White House's decision focused on Acosta's actions, but Trump went a step further Friday when he threatened to have more credentials pulled. The president, who has attacked news outlets for "fake news" and referred to journalists as

"the enemy of the people," added that reporters need to show more "respect" for the White House.

Addressing the president's comments, Conway said Trump's comments about respect were "instructive," but that that does not mean someone will see their credentials pulled for writing a critical story or asking the president a tough question.

"Chris, if what you just described were the standard, we would have cleaned out the entire building two years ago," she said.

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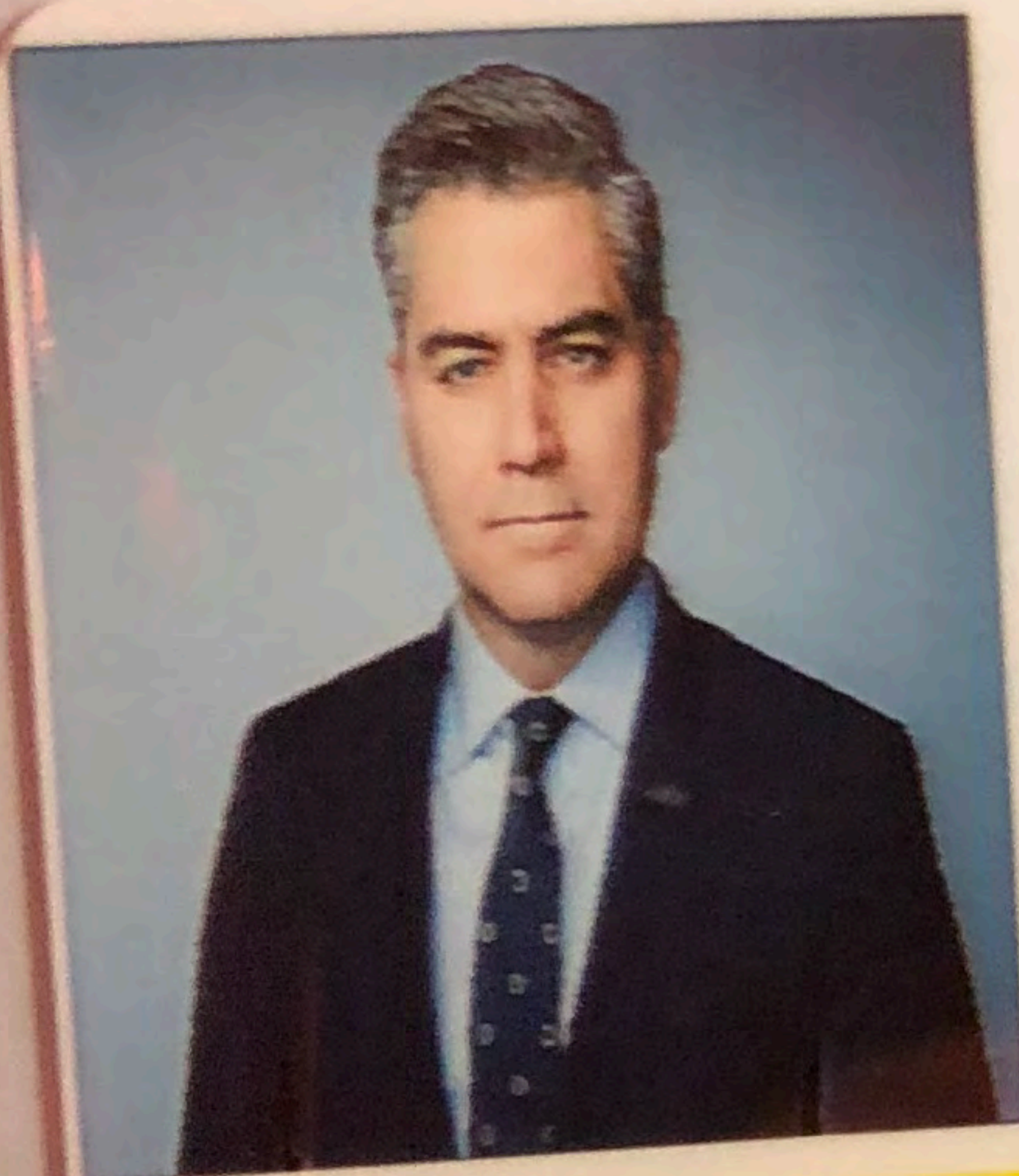
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Exhibit 53



Cérémonie internationale
du centenaire de l'Armistice
du 11 novembre 1918

ARC DE TRIOMPHE, 11 NOVEMBRE 2018



Abilio James ACOSTA

CNN

TV

ZONE 6





Exhibit 54

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POLITICS

FEBRUARY 24, 2017 / 5:39 PM / 2 YEARS AGO

White House bars some news organizations from briefing

Ayesha Rascoe



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The White House excluded several major U.S. news organizations, including some it has criticized, from an off-camera briefing held by the White House press secretary on Friday.

Journalists leave after several major news organizations including CNN, The New York Times and Politico were excluded from an off camera "gaggle" meeting with White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer in his office that was held in place of the regular daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, U.S., February 24, 2017. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

Reporters for CNN, The New York Times, Politico, The Los Angeles Times and BuzzFeed were not allowed into the session in the office of press secretary Sean Spicer.

Spicer's off-camera briefing, or "gaggle," replaced the usual televised daily news briefing in the White House briefing room. He did not say why those particular news organizations were excluded, a decision which drew strong protests.

Reuters was included in the session, along with about 10 other news organizations, including Bloomberg and CBS.

President Donald Trump has regularly attacked the media and at a gathering of conservative activists on Friday he criticized news organizations that he said provide "fake news", calling them the "enemy" of the American people.

Spicer said his team decided to have a gaggle in his office on Friday instead of a full briefing in the larger White House briefing room and argued that "we don't need to do everything on camera every day."

Reporters at the Associated Press and Time magazine walked out of the briefing when hearing that others had been barred from the session.

Off-camera gaggles are not unusual. The White House often invites handpicked outlets in for briefings, typically for specific topics. But briefings and gaggles in the White House are usually

open to all outlets and they are free to ask anything.

A pool reporter from Hearst Newspapers was included in the gaggle on Friday and gave full details to the entire press corps. Media outlets allowed into the gaggle also shared their audio with others.

PROTESTS

Spicer's decision drew a sharp response from some of the media outlets that were excluded.

"Nothing like this has ever happened at the White House in our long history of covering multiple administrations of different parties," Dean Baquet, executive editor of The New York Times, said in a statement.

"We strongly protest the exclusion of The New York Times and the other news organizations. Free media access to a transparent government is obviously of crucial national interest."

The White House Correspondents Association, or WHCA, also protested.

"The WHCA board is protesting strongly against how today's gaggle is being handled by the White House," said Jeff Mason, president of the association and a Reuters reporter.

Slideshow (2 Images)

During the election campaign last year, Trump's team banned a few news organizations, including The Washington Post and BuzzFeed, from covering his campaign rallies for a period of time to protest their coverage.

CNN posted a Twitter message on Friday afternoon saying: "This is an unacceptable development by the Trump White House. Apparently this is how they retaliate when you report facts they don't like. We'll keep reporting regardless."

Ben Smith, editor-in-chief of BuzzFeed News, said in a statement: “While we strongly object to the White House’s apparent attempt to punish news outlets whose coverage it does not like, we won’t let these latest antics distract us from continuing to cover this administration fairly and aggressively.”

11/13/2018

Key U.S. election races still undecided

On Friday, Spicer said the White House plans to fight against what it says is unfair coverage.

“I think we’re going to aggressively push back,” he said. “We’re just not going to sit back and let false narratives, false stories, inaccurate facts get out there.”

Reporting by Steve Holland; Editing by Kieran Murray and Mary Milliken

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