

## White House blocks CNN, BBC, New York Times, LA Times from media briefings

by Justin Carissimo via gail - The Independent UK Friday, Feb 24 2017, 10:13pm

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*Well, it's about time someone kicked the outrageously BIASED and information-shaping mainstream media in the teeth, it is well overdue. The CFR led and controlled western mass media (elite owned propaganda apparatus) is so absurdly partial it pains informed people to watch the sewage that spews, non-stop, from its outlets. Trump, for all his faults has done at least one good turn for the American people and western world. And shove it up your coit, CFR!*



The White House has blocked several major news outlets from covering its press briefing.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer on Friday hand selected news outlets to participate in an off-camera “gaggle” with reporters inside his West Wing office instead of the James S Brady Press Briefing Room.

The news outlets blocked from the press briefing include organisations who President Trump has criticised by name. CNN, BBC, The New York Times, LA Times, New York Daily News, BuzzFeed, The Hill, and the Daily Mail, were among the news outlets barred from the gathering.

Instead, the press secretary hand-picked news outlets including Breitbart News, One America News Network, The Washington Times, all news organisations with far-right leanings. Others major outlets approved included ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News, Reuters and Bloomberg.

“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.”

BuzzFeed’s editor-in-chief, Ben Smith, also [responded](#) to his outlet being barred from the briefing: “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 the work of continuing to cover this administration fairly and aggressively.”

And the BBC's Washington bureau chief, Paul Danahar, said: "We understand there may be occasions when, due to space or circumstances, the White House restricts press events to the established pool.

"However, what happened today did not fit into that pattern. On this occasion selected media were allowed to attend the briefing and the selected media, including the BBC, were not.

"The BBC has a representative at every daily White House briefing so we are not clear why we were barred from today's. We have sought clarification from the White House Press team. Our reporting will remain fair and impartial regardless."

Several media outlets including the Associated Press and TIME Magazine declined to attend the briefing to boycott the President's decision.

A Wall Street Journal reporter attended the meeting without being aware of the circumstances. The publication later promised to boycott similar press briefings.

"The Wall Street Journal strongly objects to the White House's decision to bar certain media outlets from today's gaggle," a spokesperson with the newspaper said in a statement. "Had we known at the time, we would not have participated and we will not participate in such rest

Fox News anchor Bret Baier discouraged conservative news outlets who celebrated the gaggle, citing organisations who defended his network when former President Obama tried to freeze out Fox News in 2009.

"Some at CNN and New York Times stood with Fox News when the Obama admin attacked us and tried to exclude us," he wrote on [Twitter](#), "a White House gaggle should be open to all credentialed orgs."

President Trump renewed his attacks on the media by again calling news outlets "the enemy of the people" at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington DC. "I'm against the people that make up stories and make up sources," he told his audience. "They shouldn't be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody's name. Let their name be put out there."

His comments come on the heel of reports that President Trump's Chief of Staff Reince Priebus privately asked the FBI to prevent news stories of the Trump campaign's communication with Russian intelligence.

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