

### White House should not respond to stories

The White House should institute a policy in which it does not respond to stories based on anonymous sources. Reporters have used the cover of "anonymous sources" to publish false stories about President Trump and the White House. Individuals have released national security information (such as information about the Manchester bombing) that should remain confidential. The White House policy would accomplish two

goals. First, it would reduce the number of false stories. White House denials often add credence to stories, and, if the White House does not comment, the reports will likely not gain much traction in the media. Second, this policy would limit the number of leaks. Leakers release information to embarrass the White House and/or gain personal power. If leakers know that the stories will gain little traction, they will lose their incentive to leak. Ultimately ... news stories based on anonymous sources will have to become more trustworthy and

accurately sourced.  
**MICHAEL B. ABRAMSON,**  
ATLANTA