“Not How a Democracy Is Intended to Function”

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Late in the afternoon on Jan. 3, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders announced a surprise “press briefing.” Then President Trump came into the briefing room to defend his proposed border wall and inflexible position on the government shutdown. No questions from the media were allowed.

I am sorry, Sarah Sanders and President Trump, but propaganda and public relations do not constitute a “White House press briefing.” Not to answer questions was misleading, galling and insulting. Rhetorically, this was just an obvious stunt to take the limelight off of Speaker Nancy Pelosi who was the nation’s appropriate focus of the day.

Regardless of your view of the government shutdown or a border wall, this is not how a democracy functions. It is just another sad example of Trump’s disrespect for both the press and the American people, as well as a contempt for the norms of governance.

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