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NATIONAL: TRUMP IS HIS OWN WORST SPOKESPERSON; SPICER, CONWAY NOT MUCH BETTER

VP Pence does best job representing his boss

West Long Branch, NJ – President Trump may not be well-served by his primary spokespeople, but he is probably his own worst mouthpiece, according to the latest *Monmouth University Poll*. More Americans say that Donald Trump, press secretary Sean Spicer, and counselor Kellyanne Conway tend to hurt rather than help the administration’s cause when they step in front of the media. Reviews are mixed for deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Vice President Mike Pence is the only official tested in the poll who has a net positive impact when he speaks on behalf of the administration.

Fully 6-in-10 (61%) Americans say Trump does more to hurt his own cause when he speaks on behalf of the administration. Just 33% say he does more to help his administration when he speaks publicly.

More say that Spicer hurts (42%) rather than helps (28%) the president when he takes to the press room podium, with 3-in-10 registering no opinion.

A similar number say that Conway hurts (40%) rather than helps (28%) the president when she hits the cable news circuit, with about 3-in-10 registering no opinion.

Opinion is divided on Sanders at 23% helps and 22% hurts, although more than half of the public have no opinion of her performance.

Pence is the only one of five officials tested who usually puts his best foot forward according to the poll. A majority (53%) say he does more to help the president and just 29% say he does more harm when he speaks on behalf of the administration.

“This is the epitome of a no-win situation. It’s not as if Trump’s appointed spokespeople are doing worse than the man himself. It may simply be an impossible task to represent this president and

come off as credible,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

The usual hyper-partisan splits in American public opinion also apply to these results. Republicans tend to see all of these officials as doing a good job making the president’s case, including Pence, (87% helps - 4% hurts), Trump (67% - 25%), Spicer (53% - 15%), Conway (53% - 16%), and Sanders (40% - 5%).

Democrats tend to think four of these officials are hopeless as administration spokespersons, although they are somewhat more divided on Mike Pence (32% helps - 48% hurts). No more than 1-in-10 Democrats think that Trump (10% helps - 86% hurts), Spicer (11% - 61%), Conway (9% - 57%), and Sanders (11% - 36%) do a good job in front of the cameras – or on Twitter, as the case may be.

“It shouldn’t escape DC’s attention that the vice president is seen as a better mouthpiece for the administration than the man who actually occupies the Oval Office, even among their fellow Republicans,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from May 13 to 17, 2017 with 1,002 adults in the United States, although no interviews were conducted on Sunday May 14. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-19 previously released.]

[QUESTIONS 20 THROUGH 24 WERE ROTATED]

I’m going to read you a list of White House officials who sometime speak for the Trump administration. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with President Trump, please tell me if each person does more to help or more to hurt the president when they speak on behalf of the administration. If you are not familiar with a person I name please let me know. First...[READ NAME] – Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?

20. Sean Spicer

	May 2017
More to help	28%
More to hurt	42%
Not familiar with person	22%
(VOL) Don't know	8%
(n)	(1,002)

21. Kellyanne Conway

	May 2017
More to help	28%
More to hurt	40%
Not familiar with person	24%
(VOL) Don't know	7%
(n)	(1,002)

22. Sarah Huckabee Sanders

	May 2017
More to help	23%
More to hurt	22%
Not familiar with person	46%
(VOL) Don't know	9%
(n)	(1,002)

23. Mike Pence

	May 2017
More to help	53%
More to hurt	29%
Not familiar with person	11%
(VOL) Don't know	7%
(n)	(1,002)

24. Donald Trump

	May 2017
More to help	33%
More to hurt	61%
Not familiar with person	0%
(VOL) Don't know	6%
(n)	(1,002)

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from May 13 to 17, 2017 with a national random sample of 1,002 adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 501 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 501 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trolldahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)	
Self-Reported	
24% Republican	
45% Independent	
31% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
32% 18-34	
37% 35-54	
31% 55+	
66% White	
12% Black	
15% Hispanic	
7% Asian/Other	

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
TOTAL		1,002	3.1%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	896	3.3%
	No	106	9.5%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	239	6.3%
PARTY ID	Independent	425	4.8%
	Democrat	321	5.5%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	262	6.1%
	Moderate	374	5.1%
	Conservative	332	5.4%
GENDER	Male	491	4.4%
	Female	511	4.3%
AGE	18-34	256	6.1%
	35-54	298	5.7%
	55+	444	4.7%
RACE	White non-Hispanic	764	3.6%
	Other	210	6.8%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	518	4.3%
	4 year degree	475	4.5%
INCOME	<\$50K	324	5.5%
	\$50 to <100K	323	5.5%
	\$100K+	278	5.9%
2016 VOTE BY	Trump 10+ pts.	392	5.0%
COUNTY	Swing < 10 pts.	213	6.7%
	Clinton 10+ pts.	397	4.9%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 5/31/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20/20A. Sean Spicer - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	28%	29%	23%	53%	29%	11%	11%	23%	46%
	More to hurt	42%	45%	26%	15%	44%	61%	67%	47%	22%
	Not familiar with person	22%	18%	41%	21%	20%	23%	18%	21%	22%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	8%	8%	10%	11%	8%	6%	4%	9%	9%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
20/20A. Sean Spicer - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	32%	25%	18%	35%	31%	33%	19%	28%
	More to hurt	42%	42%	47%	39%	41%	40%	46%	37%
	Not familiar with person	17%	26%	29%	18%	18%	18%	29%	25%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	9%	7%	7%	8%	10%	9%	6%	9%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
20/20A. Sean Spicer - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	29%	22%	36%	34%	34%	23%	25%
	More to hurt	55%	41%	38%	50%	34%	41%	51%
	Not familiar with person	11%	29%	19%	9%	21%	27%	19%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	6%	9%	7%	7%	10%	9%	5%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
21/20B. Kellyanne Conway - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	28%	28%	25%	53%	28%	9%	9%	23%	46%
	More to hurt	40%	43%	23%	16%	41%	57%	69%	46%	16%
	Not familiar with person	24%	22%	41%	24%	22%	28%	17%	25%	30%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	7%	6%	11%	7%	8%	5%	5%	6%	7%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
21/20B. Kellyanne Conway - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	31%	25%	19%	32%	32%	33%	18%	28%
	More to hurt	39%	42%	43%	39%	40%	38%	46%	35%
	Not familiar with person	24%	25%	32%	23%	19%	22%	31%	30%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	6%	8%	6%	7%	9%	8%	6%	7%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 5/31/17

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
21/20B. Kellyanne Conway - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	27%	18%	35%	36%	35%	25%	23%
	More to hurt	55%	42%	39%	44%	32%	36%	51%
	Not familiar with person	11%	33%	20%	13%	24%	31%	21%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	6%	7%	6%	7%	9%	7%	5%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
22/20C. Sarah Huckabee Sanders - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	23%	23%	24%	40%	23%	11%	14%	19%	35%
	More to hurt	22%	23%	16%	5%	22%	36%	35%	25%	11%
	Not familiar with person	46%	45%	52%	48%	44%	47%	43%	46%	47%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	9%	9%	8%	7%	11%	6%	8%	10%	7%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
22/20C. Sarah Huckabee Sanders - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	25%	22%	16%	26%	27%	29%	12%	21%
	More to hurt	23%	22%	22%	21%	24%	20%	27%	19%
	Not familiar with person	44%	48%	53%	45%	40%	41%	55%	51%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	11%	5%	8%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
22/20C. Sarah Huckabee Sanders - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	28%	17%	27%	31%	29%	22%	19%
	More to hurt	30%	21%	20%	29%	15%	23%	29%
	Not familiar with person	31%	54%	45%	31%	46%	44%	46%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	10%	9%	8%	9%	11%	10%	6%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
23/20D. Mike Pence - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	53%	56%	40%	87%	52%	32%	34%	50%	72%
	More to hurt	29%	29%	28%	4%	28%	48%	49%	31%	13%
	Not familiar with person	11%	8%	23%	5%	13%	11%	8%	10%	11%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	7%	7%	10%	4%	8%	9%	8%	8%	5%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 5/31/17

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
23/20D. Mike Pence - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	61%	46%	46%	57%	56%	61%	38%	51%
	More to hurt	26%	32%	33%	27%	26%	23%	39%	29%
	Not familiar with person	8%	13%	14%	10%	8%	8%	15%	13%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	10%	8%	5%	9%	7%	8%	8%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
23/20D. Mike Pence - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	60%	42%	61%	68%	62%	49%	47%
	More to hurt	30%	33%	27%	25%	22%	31%	34%
	Not familiar with person	5%	16%	6%	3%	8%	13%	11%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	6%	9%	6%	5%	7%	7%	7%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
24/20E. Donald Trump - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	33%	33%	36%	67%	32%	10%	9%	25%	59%
	More to hurt	61%	62%	56%	25%	62%	86%	87%	71%	35%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	6%	5%	8%	8%	6%	3%	5%	4%	6%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
24/20E. Donald Trump - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	37%	30%	27%	36%	37%	40%	22%	36%
	More to hurt	59%	63%	67%	60%	56%	54%	73%	57%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	7%	6%	4%	8%	6%	5%	7%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
24/20E. Donald Trump - Does [s/he] do more to help or more to hurt the president when [s/he] speaks for the administration?	More to help	27%	31%	38%	33%	45%	30%	24%
	More to hurt	71%	62%	57%	65%	49%	60%	73%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	2%	6%	5%	2%	6%	9%	3%