

Spicer's Foot in Mouth Not Front Page News

by Gary Fouse



This week, White House press spokesman Sean Spicer misspoke while talking about the Syrian use of poison gas on its own people. Here is what he [said \(NPR\)](#):

SEAN SPICER: We didn't use chemical weapons in World War II. You know, you had a – someone as despicable as Hitler, who didn't even sink to the – to using chemical weapons. So...

HORSLEY: That left reporters in the room and certainly people watching on television scratching their heads because it seemed like Spicer was overlooking the millions who died in Nazi concentration camps.

CORNISH: Right. And a reporter did ask Spicer to clarify

his remarks, right? What happened?

HORSLEY: Yeah. In fairness, I mean anybody can misspeak when they're speaking extemporaneously for long periods of time, and that certainly includes Sean Spicer. So a reporter tried to give the press secretary a do-over, asking Spicer to clarify. And you know, it just made matters worse. Here's Spicer trying to explain why Hitler's murderous gas was somehow different than Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

SPICER: I think when you come to sarin gas, there was no – he was not using the gas on his own people the same way that Assad is doing. I mean there was clearly – I understand your point. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I understand your point.

SPICER: Thank you. I appreciate that. There was not – in the – he brought them into the – to the Holocaust center, and I understand that. But I'm saying, in the way that Assad used them, where he went into towns, dropped them down to innocent – into the middle of towns. It was brought – so the use of it. I appreciate the clarification there. That was not the intent.

Yes, it was clumsy, but does this really merit the three major news networks leading their evening news reports with this? Does it merit this full blown