

# Author says book will bring down Trump

LONDON—The author of a book highly critical of Donald Trump's first year as US president said his revelations were likely to bring an end to Trump's time in the White House.

Michael Wolff told BBC Radio that his conclusion in "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House"—that Trump is not fit to do the job—was becoming a widespread view.

"I think one of the interesting effects of the book so far is a very clear emperor-has-no-clothes effect," Wolff said in an interview broadcast on Saturday.

"The story that I have told seems to present this presidency in such a way that it says he cannot do his job," Wolff said.

"Suddenly everywhere people are going 'Oh my God, it's true. He has no clothes.' That's the background to the perception and the understanding that will finally end ... this presidency."

Trump has dismissed the book as full of lies. It depicts a chaotic White House, a president who was ill-prepared to win the office in 2016, and Trump aides who scorned his abilities.

Trump took to Twitter late on Friday to renew his attacks on Wolff, and on his former top aide Steve Bannon who was quoted in the book.

## Sloppy Steve Bannon

"Michael Wolff is a total loser who made up stories in order to sell this really boring and untruthful book," Trump said. "He used Sloppy Steve Bannon, who cried when he got fired and begged for his job. Now Sloppy Steve has been dumped like a dog by almost everyone. Too bad!"

In his interview with the BBC, Wolff was asked if he believed that Bannon felt Trump was unfit to serve as president and would try to bring him down. "Yes," Wolff replied.

He also hit back at claims that the book was untruthful.

"This is what's called reporting. This is how you do it," he said. "You ask people, you get as close as you can to the event, you interview the people who were privy to the event, you interview other people who were privy to the event, you come to know the circumstance as well as anybody and then you report it."

In Washington, Wolff said he had spoken with Trump while working on the book, contradicting the latter's assertion that he had never talked to the writer for the book and had authorized "zero access" to the White House.

"I absolutely spoke to the president. Whether he realized it was an interview or not, I don't know, but it was certainly

not off the record," Wolff said on NBC's "Today" program.

He added that he had spoken

to people who spoke to Trump on a daily, "sometimes minute by minute" basis.

## Political fire storm

Wolff's book went on sale on Friday, its release pulled forward after published excerpts this week set off a political fire storm, threats by Trump lawyers of legal action and an effort to halt publication.

Asked to clarify what he meant when he wrote that Trump's entire circle questioned his fitness for office, Wolff said, "Let me put a marker in the sand here: 100 percent of the people around him ... They all say he is like a child. And what they mean by that is he has a need for immediate gratification. It's all about him."

On Thursday evening, Trump tweeted, "I authorized Zero access to White House (actually turned him down many times) ... I never spoke to him for book."

The early excerpts have also caused a deep public rift with Trump's former chief strategist and top campaign aide, Steve Bannon, over his comments in the book about Trump and his family, shaking the Republican president's populist movement.

\* TRUMP, DONALD → US PRES.



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**Best-seller on Day 1**

Lawyers for Trump had called on the book's publisher, Henry Holt & Co, to halt the book's release, originally scheduled for Tuesday. Instead, it began sales early. As of Friday, it was the top-selling book on Amazon.com.

Customers in Washington lined up in bitterly cold weather to purchase a copy at Kramerbooks, which began selling copies at midnight.

In a tweet on Friday, Trump called the book another attempt to smear him since possible collusion by his campaign with Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 election, which a special counsel is investigating, "is proving to be a total hoax."

Special counsel Robert Mueller has not announced any conclusion to his investigation.

—REUTERS