

CBS Mornings

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7:00:41 a.m. [TEASE]

15 seconds

GAYLE KING: A report finds major flaws in how the FBI investigated Donald Trump's possible ties to Russia during the 2016 campaign.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Errors at the FBI]

BOB ANDERSON: This has been a big black eye for a lot of the federal law enforcement intelligence community.

(...)

7:04:21 a.m.

3 minutes and 13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Special Counsel Points to FBI Missteps; Durham Criticizes Agency Over Handling of Trump Russia Collusion Probe]

TONY DOKOUPIL: But we're going to begin with the news this morning, and it's coming out of Washington. A new report, long-awaited, on the FBI's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. Special Counsel John Durham said the FBI made critical errors in handling that situation, although Durham stopped short of saying that those mistakes were politically motivated. Former President Donald Trump was quick to praise the findings, which echoed or largely echoed the inspector general's report from 2019. Senior CBS News investigative correspondent Catherine Herridge is at the Department of Justice for us. Catherine, a 300-page-plus report. What's in it? Good morning.

CATHERINE HERRIDGE: Well, good morning, Tony. The Durham report found the FBI discounted or willfully ignored information that did not support the Russia collusion narrative. House Republicans now want Special Counsel John Durham to testify about his findings next week. After nearly four years of investigation, Special Counsel John Durham found the FBI lacked actual evidence to investigate then-candidate Donald Trump's campaign in 2016. Durham said the Bureau was too reliant on investigative leads provided or funded by Trump's political opponents. The report did not reveal major new findings, but it repeated prior criticism from Trump.

DONALD TRUMP [in July 2018]: There was no collusion at all.

HERRIDGE: The FBI expanded its original probe, known as Crossfire Hurricane, based partly on information from Christopher Steele. Steele, a former British spy, put together a research dossier alleging possible misconduct between then candidate Trump and Russia. Durham found "investigators could not and did not find any of the information contained in the Steele

reporting.”

ANDERSON: This has been a big black eye for a lot of the federal intelligence law enforcement communities.

HERRIDGE: Bob Anderson is a former senior FBI executive.

ANDERSON: Where there's smoke, there's not always fire. And I think taking that extra second to look at this, verify things, before you actually went down that road might have been a little better off.

HERRIDGE: The FBI investigation was the basis for appointing Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who had an even broader mandate.

ROBERT MUELLER [on 05/29/19]: There were multiple systematic attempts to interfere in our election.

HERRIDGE: Mueller's report concluded there was insufficient evidence of a criminal conspiracy involving President Trump, his associates, and Russia.

TRUMP: Every time Russia's brought up, they say Trump. What do I have to do with it?

HERRIDGE: In a statement, the FBI says it has implemented dozens of corrective acts which could have prevented errors made by the bureau in 2016. On social media, former President Trump reacted to the report, saying, “the American people had been scammed.”

ANDERSON: You don't ever want the American people thinking that the United States intelligence or the FBI is in any way doing anything outside of just looking at the facts.

HERRIDGE: Critics charge the Durham investigation cost taxpayers more than \$6 million and brought only two cases to trial. Both men were found not guilty and the third ended in a plea agreement. Durham is recommending the creation of a new position for politically-sensitive investigations in the future, Gayle.

KING: Thank you, Catherine. Some people think that's a very good idea.