

ABC's *Good Morning America*

09/19/25

7:00:16 a.m. [TEASE]

2 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: President Trump threatens broadcasters....

(...)

7:00:43 a.m. [TEASE]

24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: This Morning; New Fallout]

STEPHANOPOULOS: President Trump escalates his attacks on broadcasters.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: They give you only bad publicity, or press. And, I mean, they're getting a license. I would think maybe their license should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr.

STEPHANOPOULOS: The FCC chairman saying the FCC could intensify his actions against broadcasters. Now, top Democrats in Congress calling for the FCC chairman to resign.

(...)

7:05:23 a.m.

4 minutes and 18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Suggests FCC Revoke Licenses Over Critical Coverage]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to get the latest now on President Trump's new threat to free speech and broadcasters following ABC's decision to indefinitely suspend *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* Elizabeth Schulz joins us now. And, Elizabeth, the President's suggesting the FCC should take away the licenses of broadcasters that give him — this is a quote, "only bad publicity or press."

ELIZABETH SCHULZE: Yeah, that's right, George. Good morning. President Trump is ramping up his attacks against TV broadcasters, suggesting his administration could take action against them if their coverage is too negative of him. Returning from a state visit to the U.K., this morning President Trump is suggesting the Federal Communications Commission should take licenses away from broadcasters that are repeatedly critical of him.

TRUMP: They give you only bad publicity, or press. And, I mean, they're getting a license. I would think maybe their license should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr.

SCHULZE: It would be a move that would seem to be at odds with an executive order the President signed on his first day back in office, pledging to protect free speech.

TRUMP [on 03/04/25]: And I have stopped all government censorship and brought back free speech in America. It's back.

SCHULZE: And it comes after ABC suspended *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* indefinitely Wednesday, after Federal Communications Commission chairman Brendan Carr criticized Kimmel's comments Monday about the alleged killer of conservative influencer Charlie Kirk.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: We hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk is anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it.

SCHULZE: This was not the first time Kimmel addressed Kirk's murder, posting on Instagram hours after Kirk was shot: "Can weep for one day agree that it's horrible and monstrous to shoot another human? On behalf of my family, we sent loves to the Kirks and who all of the children, parents and innocence who fall victim to senseless gun violence." Thursday, the FCC chairman praising Nexstar and Sinclair, two of the biggest owners of network TV affiliates, after they said they wouldn't air Kimmel's show. Nexstar needs Carr's approval at the FCC to complete a merger with another media company.

FCC CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR [on CNBC's *Squawk on the Street*, 09/18/25]: We want to empower local broadcasters that have the public interest obligation to pushback on national programmers so that people have more choice.

SCHULZE: Carr suggesting the FCC could intensify its actions against TV broadcasters.

CARR [on FNC's *The Will Cain Show*, 09/18/25]: I don't think this is a last shoe to drop. This is a massive shift that is taking place in the media ecosystem and I think the consequences going to continue to flow.

SCHULZE: Top Democrats in Congress calling for the FCC chairman to resign, accusing him of a corrupt abuse of power. Former President Barack Obama slamming the current administration, writing online: "After years of complaining about cancel culture, the current administration has taken it to a new and dangerous level by routinely threatening regulatory action against media companies unless they muzzle or fire reporters, and commentators it doesn't like." Overnight, late-night hosts standing with Kimmel.

JIMMY FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: He's a decent, funny and loving guy and I hope he comes back.

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: I stand with you and your staff 100 percent.

SCHULZE: Comedian Jon Stewart returning to host Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* on his night off —

ANNOUNCER [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/18/25]: It's the all-new, government approved *Daily Show*.

SCHULZE: — and criticizing the Trump administration.

JON STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/18/25]: They've just redefined what speech means. What free speech means is free speech is speech that supports the President.

SCHULZE: There's still no word from our parent company Disney ABC about Jimmy Kimmel being off the air indefinitely and if and when he will return.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Elizabeth. Let's get more of this from chief Washington correspondent Jon Karl. And, Jon, this is the latest in a series of pretty extraordinary steps the President and his team have taken to punish adversaries, silence critics, stifle free-speech.

JONATHAN KARL: For — for sure, George. And those were extraordinary words that we just heard from the President overnight on Air Force One, saying — talking about revoking broadcast license, taking networks off the air if he doesn't believe that they have been fair to him. And the week started out with him suing *The New York Times* and telling me directly that his attorney general might go after reporters if he doesn't like what we have reported. Donald Trump has made it perfectly clear that he would like to use the power of the federal government to silence his critics.