

ABC's *World News Tonight with David Muir*

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6:31:05 p.m. [TEASE]

16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Reiterates Support for FCC Pressure]

DAVID MUIR: Late today in the Oval Office, President Trump was asked about his FCC chairman, Brendan Carr, who put pressure on some ABC stations to pre-empt Jimmy Kimmel. Republican Ted Cruz comparing that pressure to that of a mafia boss. What the President is now saying about this tonight.

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6:39:08 p.m.

2 minutes and 15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Reiterates Support for FCC Chairman]

MUIR: Now to the scene late today in the Oval Office. President Trump was asked about his FCC chairman, Brendan Carr, who put pressure on some ABC stations to pre-empt Jimmy Kimmel. Republican Ted Cruz now comparing Carr's pressure on stations to that of a mafia boss. Jon Karl asking the President about that late today.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Trump Reiterates Support for FCC Chairman; Sen. Cruz Compares FCC Chairman to a Mob Boss]

JONATHAN KARL: Tonight, the Trump administration is under fire from Democrats and some Republicans, too, over their efforts to clamp down on free speech. One top Republican senator comparing the Federal Communications Chairman, Brendan Carr, to a mafia boss. Carr sparked a backlash after pressuring ABC stations to pre-empt *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* after comments Kimmel made about the alleged killer of Charlie Kirk.

FCC CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR [on *The Benny Show*, 06/17/25]: We can do this the easy way or the hard way. These companies can find ways to change conduct, to take action. Frankly on Kimmel. Or there's going to be additional work for the FCC ahead.

KARL: Disney/ABC then announced Kimmel's show was suspended indefinitely. Tonight, Republican Senator Ted Cruz comparing the FCC chairman's threat to a scene out of *Goodfellas*.

SENATOR TED CRUZ [on *The Verdict with Ted Cruz*, 09/19/25]: He says, we can do this the easy way or we can do this the hard way. I've got to say, that's right out of *Goodfellas*. That's right out of a mafioso coming into the bar, "nice bar you have here, it would be a shame if something happened to it."

KARL Cruz called what the FCC chairman did dangerous.

CRUZ [on *The Verdict with Ted Cruz*, 09/19/25]: I think it's unbelievably dangerous for government to put itself in the position of saying, we're going to decide what speech we like and that we don't, and we're going to threaten to take you off air if we don't like what you're saying.

KARL: Tonight, I asked the President about that. [TO TRUMP] Ted Cruz compared Brendan Carr to a mob boss, the way he's threatening television stations and saying it's absolutely dangerous for the government to determine which speech is okay and which is not. What's your reaction to Ted Cruz?

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I think Brendan Carr is an incredible American patriot with courage.

KARL: The President suggested that FCC Chairman Carr could go further. Yesterday suggesting that Carr could potentially take away the broadcast licenses from television stations who President Trump says repeatedly criticize him. David?

MUIR: Jon Karl tonight, Jon, thank you.