

*CBS Evening News*

09/19/25

6:30:20 p.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Suspension Fallout]

PRO-KIMMEL PROTESTERS: Bring Jimmy back!

JOHN DICKERSON: Protests against ABC for pulling Jimmy Kimmel off the air as the President again threatens to pull the station licenses of networks that criticize him.

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: That is blatant censorship.

(...)

6:31:17 p.m.

3 minutes and 50 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Preempted]

DICKERSON: ABC is again replacing *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* tonight with *Celebrity Family Feud*.

MAURICE DUBOIS: But some affiliates, those owned by the Sinclair Broadcast Group, will be airing a tribute to the conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

DICKERSON: It was Kimmel's comments about the Kirk assassination that resulted in ABC pulling his show under pressure from the Trump-appointed chairman of the FCC.

DUBOIS: Protesters demanded today that Kimmel be returned to the air. Meanwhile, the president took aim again at the networks, threatening to pull their station licenses for criticizing him.

DICKERSON: He accused the networks of airing stories that are 97 percent negative about him." Nancy Cordes is at the White House. Nancy?

NANCY CORDES: John, both the President and his FCC chair have now said that they may not stop with Jimmy Kimmel, that there are other TV host or even journalists that they think do not belong on the air. Critics, including some Republicans, say any move to pull broadcast licenses would be unprecedented and potentially unconstitutional.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Fallout; Protests Over Suspension of Late Night Host]

PRO-KIMMEL PROTESTERS: Bring Jimmy back! Bring Jimmy back!

CORDES: With Jimmy Kimmel off the air for a third straight day, the fallout is growing. Film and TV writers protested outside ABC headquarters in New York, even as President Trump warned he may go after other networks next.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: They give me only bad publicity, the press. I mean, they're getting a license. I would think maybe their license should be taken away.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: That is blatant censorship.

CORDES: Kimmel's late-night counterparts rallied to his defense and engaged in some mocking self-censorship.

JIMMY FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: President Trump just wrapped up his three-day trip to the U.K., and he — [ANNOUNCER] — looked incredibly handsome! [LAUGHTER]

CORDES: Today, Michael Eisner, the former CEO of ABC's parent company Disney, slammed his successors, posting, "Where has all the leadership gone? Who will step up for the first amendment?" Disney suspended Jimmy Kimmel Live! on Wednesday with these remarks.

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.

CORDES: The suspension came just hours after Trump FCC chair Brendan Carr appeared to threaten to hold up a major affiliate deal over Kimmel's comments.

FCC CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR [on *The Benny Show*, 09/17/25]: We can do this easy way or the hard way.

CORDES: Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz called those comments "dangerous as hell."

SENATOR TED CRUZ [on *The Verdict with Ted Cruz*, 09/19/25]: That's right out of *Goodfellas*. That — 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.

CORDES: But other conservatives argued Kimmel had it coming.

SENATOR JOSH HAWLEY (R-MO): I don't feel sorry for him at all and I think Disney did the right thing.

CORDES: Trump's distaste for Kimmel's brand of comedy dates back for years.

TRUMP [on 10/14/24]: Well, Jimmy Kimmel is a loser.

CORDES: Trump has slammed him on social media at least 16 times since 2020.

KIMMEL [at *The Oscars*, on 03/10/24]: Thank you, President Trump. [LAUGHTER] Thank you for watching. I'm surprised you're still — isn't it past your jail time?

DUBOIS: Nancy, we are hearing about a shooting incident at a TV station in Sacramento, California. What do we know about that?

CORDES: Maurice, police are calling this a drive-by shooting. They say there were several shots fired at the TV station from a vehicle before it took off, and, luckily, no one was injured. The motive, they say, is still unclear, but one local law enforcement official said that attacks on the media or any type of business will not be tolerated.