

NBC's *Today*

06/03/26

7:01:46 a.m. [TEASE]

18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Off the Clock]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Off the clock. Veteran *60 Minutes* correspondent Scott Pelley fired by CBS after his dramatic showdown with his new bosses. The company saying he left them no choice. Pelley standing his ground overnight. We'll hear from both sides.

(...)

7:03:57 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Pelley Fired]

MELVIN: Also breaking overnight, CBS News firing *60 Minutes* correspondent Scott Pelley one day after he confronted the show's new executive producer during a heated staff meeting.

(...)

7:20:18 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 7:32 AM; "60 Minutes" Shake-Up]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, a major shake-up overnight after that dustup at *60 Minutes*. Veteran correspondent Scott Pelley fired, and this morning both he and his now former bosses are speaking out about the decision. We'll have the very latest.

(...)

7:31:04 a.m.

3 minutes and 27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Pelley Fired in Latest "60 Minutes" Shake-Up]

GUTHRIE: More to get you including this breaking news overnight in the media world. Long-time *60 Minutes* correspondent Scott Pelly fired by CBS News after his headline-making clash with his new bosses, NBC's Erin McLaughlin here with the latest details. Erin, good morning.

ERIN MCLAUGHLIN: Guys, good morning. Pelley's dismissal came in a strongly worded termination letter obtained by NBC News that was very much returned fire from Pelley's new

boss Nick Bilton after Pelley's very public criticism of him in front of staff. Bilton accusing Pelley of hijacking the meeting only to disparage him before ultimately letting the veteran anchor go. And for Pelley's part, he's telling NBC News the show lost its DNA when some of the staff was fired without cause last week, saying they were silenced for standing up for their audience.

SCOTT PELLEY [on CBS's *60 Minutes*, date N/A]: I'm Scott Pelley. Those stories tonight on *60 Minutes*.

MCLAUGHLIN: Breaking overnight. Scott Pelly fired from CBS News, just one day after a heated clash with *60 Minutes* leadership — [*60 MINUTES* CLOCK TICKING] — as one of America's landmark newscasts faces of very public crisis. Two days ago, Pelley had clashed with the show's controversial new leader, technology journalist and documentary maker Nick Bilton. In a staff meeting, Pelley attacked Bilton's qualifications and blasted the news network's leadership, according to a source in the room and an audio recording obtained by NBC News. Now, Bilton writing to Pelly in a scathing termination letter obtained by NBC News: "You hijacked my first meeting with staff to disparage me," saying it "demonstrated that you have no interest in contributing to the future success of the show." In a separate note to staffers, Bilton saying he made repeated attempts to speak with Pelley to no avail.

DYLAN BYERS: He felt like Scott Pelley was tempting fate here. He knew that he was becoming a sort of leader of a resistance.

MCLAUGHLIN: Pelley, who spent nearly four decades at the network responded with the blistering statement of his own overnight, writing: "New management has instructed me to inject falsehoods and bias into a politically sensitive story. To date, in every case, I have managed to ignore these instructions or refuse them," adding "incompetence and unprofessionalism in the new management have wreaked havoc." Pelley has been critical of CBS News chief Bari Weiss, who recently fired the show's executive producer, along with two *60 Minutes* correspondents, Sharyn Alfonsi and Cecilia Vega. In that fiery meeting on Monday, Pelley accused Weiss of "murdering" *60 Minutes*. Turmoil has been brewing since David Ellison took over CBS News's parent company Paramount last year. Ellison looking to expand his empire with a major merger, currently awaiting regulatory approval from the Trump administration. Pelley now saying the new owner is making changes "apparently to curry a moment of favor with the Trump administration." While this morning, the President weighed in on Pelley.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [on *New York Post's Pod Force One*, 06/03/26]: Pelley's a stiff, and he's afraid, and he's part of this, you know, gang of crooked, stupid people that don't care about our country.

MCLAUGHLIN: While at CBS, questions swirl about the future of the beloved show. And we reached out to CBS on Pelley's allegations that management told him to insert bias into his work. We have not heard back. His fellow correspondent Cecilia Vega made similar statements after her firing from *60 Minutes* last week. To that, she's — the network said in a statement at the time that her claims are "not based in reality," guys.

GUTHRIE: Alright, Erin, thank you very much.