

Tucker Carlson text contributed to his firing, report says: 'It's not how white men fight'

NEW YORK – Text messages that helped lead Fox News to part ways with star host Tucker Carlson included one in which he declared that Trump supporters beating a protester was "not how white men fight," according to The New York Times.

The text was one of a trove of messages from Carlson and other Fox News hosts uncovered in a defamation lawsuit filed by Dominion Voting Systems against the network for airing false allegations that the company's machines were used to steal the 2020 election from former President Donald Trump.

The sides settled just as the trial was getting underway, with Fox agreeing to pay Dominion nearly \$800 million. While some of Carlson's texts have been publicly released, the one quoted by NYT remains redacted by the court. Media organizations, including The Associated Press, continue to try to lift the redactions.

'See you soon': Tucker Carlson breaks silence after Fox News departure
Tucker Carlson, host of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," seen here in 2017, has been ousted by Fox News.

The NYT reports that Carlson sent the text to a producer hours after Trump supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. He describes a video he had seen a couple of weeks earlier of Trump supporters beating someone he described as "an Antifa kid."

Carlson wrote about his conflicting emotions in watching the fight, which he described as "three against one, at least."

"Jumping a guy like that is dishonorable obviously," he wrote, according to the NYT. "It's not how white men fight."

A seismic cable shift: Everything to know about top-rated Fox News host Tucker Carlson's exit

"I should remember that somewhere somebody probably loves this kid, and would be crushed if he was killed," Carlson wrote, after admitting part of him was rooting for the attackers. "If I don't care about those things, if I reduce people to their politics, how am I better than he is?"