

CBS Evening News with Tony Dokoupil

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6:30:28 p.m. [TEASE]

14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Jack Smith Testifies]

TONY DOKOUPIL: The other breaking story today, that fiery hearing on Capitol Hill, former special counsel Jack Smith, who led two criminal investigations into President Trump, grilled by lawmakers, Smith not backing down. What the president called him late today.

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6:36:56 p.m.

2 minutes and 2 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Heated Hearing]

DOKOUPIL: We turn now that historic hearing on Capitol Hill. Former special counsel Jack Smith, who pursued not one, but two criminal cases against President Trump, never got to make his case before a jury. But he had plenty to say to lawmakers today about what he describes as a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election, which led to the attack on the U.S. Capitol. Here's justice correspondent Scott MacFarlane.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: In Fiery Testimony Jack Smith Defends Trump Prosecution]

SCOTT MACFARLANE: For the first time, Jack Smith has testified publicly, defending his historic criminal case against President Trump.

JACK SMITH: Our proof showed that he caused what happened on January 6, that it was foreseeable, and that he exploited that violence.

MACFARLANE: With four police officers who helped stop the attack in the front row, Smith and Democrats blasted what they call a whitewashing of history by Trump and Republicans.

CONGRESSMAN JESUS GARCIA (D-IL): Let's remember why we're here today. Donald Trump incited an insurrection in 2020 because he refused to accept that he lost that election.

MACFARLANE: Republicans accused Smith of overreaching by seeking phone data from lawmakers who were allegedly targeted by Trump to help install fake electors.

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JIM JORDAN (R-OH): They got my phone records for 2.5 years. Even the Democrats said this was wrong.

MACFARLANE: Smith said those records were reviewed because Trump and his allies called

those lawmakers while trying to stop the election from being certified.

SMITH: We followed the facts and we followed the law. Where that led us was to an indictment of an unprecedented criminal scheme to block the peaceful transfer of power.

MACFARLANE: Trump today called Smith “a deranged animal” and said, “hopefully, the attorney general is looking at what he’s done,” a post to which Smith responded.

CONGRESSWOMAN BECCA BALINT (D-VT) [TO SMITH]: Do you believe that President Trump’s Department of Justice will find some way to indict you?

SMITH: I believe they will do everything in their power to do that because they’ve been ordered to by the President.

MACFARLANE: Smith dropped his cases after the president won reelection. But, in the meantime, the White House has escalated its whitewashing of January 6, including posting a government Web page with lies about the investigations and the attacks, Tony.

DOKOUPIL: All right, Scott, thank you very much.