

*NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas*

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2 minutes and 3 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Jack Smith Defends Trump Investigation]

TOM LLAMAS: Alright, we're gonna turn now to that fiery hearing on Capitol Hill. Former special counsel Jack Smith, who brought charges against President Trump before his re-election, grilled by Republicans today, but he did not back down. Here's Ryan Nobles.

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JIM JORDAN (R-OH): Would you please rise and raise your right-hand?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Fmr. Special Counsel Jack Smith Grilled at Fiery Hearing]

RYAN NOBLES: Tonight, former special counsel Jack Smith defending his investigation into President Donald Trump.

JACK SMITH: I stand by my decisions as special counsel, including the decision to bring charges against President Trump.

NOBLES: Smith, a career prosecutor, has been a target of Republicans since his two indictments of Trump, one for the mishandling of classified documents and the other for interfering with the results of the 2020 election, fell apart before Trump's second term.

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JIM JORDAN (R-OH): It was always about politics and to get President Trump, they were willing to do just about anything.

NOBLES: In a tense hearing, Republicans accused Smith of spying on members of Congress by unlawfully seeking their phone records.

CONGRESSMAN DARRYL ISSA (R-CA) [TO SMITH]: Did you inform the judge or did you hold that back?

SMITH: My office didn't spy on anyone.

NOBLES: In the room, police officers on duty during January 6. One tangling with a Trump-supporting protester.

MICHAEL FANONE: You're a traitor, [expletive].

NOBLES: President Trump was watching the hearing and accused Smith of being "deranged," adding he hopes his Attorney General Pam Bondi is "looking at what he has done." [TO

JORDAN] Do you agree with that and was that appropriate?

JORDAN: That's up to the Justice Department, but I have — I have complete confidence in this Justice Department.

NOBLES: A threat Smith is taking seriously.

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.

NOBLES: But he never wavered.

SMITH: Our investigation developed proof beyond a reasonable doubt that President Trump engaged in criminal activity.

NOBLES: It's not clear what if any charges the Department of Justice might bring against Jack Smith. His appearance here today made it clear he's not afraid of any potential prosecution. Tom.

LLAMAS: Ryan Nobles on Capitol Hill.