

ABC's *Good Morning America*

01/23/26

7:13:33 a.m.

2 minutes and 17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Former Special Counsel Grilled on Capitol Hill]

DEBORAH ROBERTS: Well now to Capitol Hill and heated testimony by former special counsel Jack Smith, who was grilled by the GOP-led House Judiciary Committee over his investigations of President Trump. Chief Justice correspondent Pierre Thomas is in Washington with more on this. Good morning, Pierre.

PIERRE THOMAS: Deborah, good morning. In a dramatic, five-hour hearing facing sustained attacks from Republicans, Jack Smith went on the offensive, flatly declaring that his investigation found 'proof beyond a reasonable doubt' that President Trump committed crimes. Speaking at length about his work for the first time publicly, former special counsel Jack Smith says he was right to indict President Trump —

JACK SMITH: Our investigation revealed that Donald Trump is the person who caused January 6, that it was foreseeable to him, and that he sought to exploit the violence.

THOMAS: — saying, if given the chance, he would do it again.

SMITH: If asked whether to prosecute a former president based on the same facts today. I would do so regardless of whether that president was a Democrat or a Republican.

THOMAS: Despite death threats and being personally attacked by President Trump, Smith is adamant he has no regrets about charging Trump with illegally retaining classified documents, obstruction of justice, and engaging in a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election. The Justice Department decided to stop pursuing the charges, which Trump flatly denied, after he was elected because DOJ guidelines say you cannot prosecute a sitting president. Republicans attacking Smith.

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.

THOMAS: Democrats vigorously defending him.

CONGRESSMAN ERIC SWALWELL (D-CA): You did everything right, sir.

THOMAS: The President overseas attacking Smith during his testimony, posting, "hopefully the Attorney General is looking at what he's done." Later, adding, "based on his testimony today, there is no question that Deranged Jack Smith should be prosecuted for his actions."

CONGRESSWOMAN BECCA BALINT (D-VT) [TO SMITH]: Mr. 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.

THOMAS: DOJ is reviewing Smith's prosecution of Trump, but Smith is pushing back, saying he will not be intimidated, George.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Pierre, thanks very much.