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Congressional Republicans repeatedly accused Jack Smith of participating in a Democratic conspiracy to destroy President Trump.

In Testimony, Smith Defends Trump Prosecutions

By GLENN THRUSH and ALAN FEUER

WASHINGTON — Jack Smith, the special prosecutor who twice indicted Donald J. Trump, defended his investigation in a tense and long-awaited appearance before a House committee on Thursday — flatly accusing Mr. Trump of causing the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

“No one should be above the law in this country, and the law required that he be held to account,” Mr. Smith said in his opening remarks. “So that is what I did.”

Mr. Smith’s restrained testimony amounted to the summation he was never allowed to de-

Law Required That the President ‘Be Held to Account,’ He Says

liver in a courtroom, and concluded that Mr. Trump “engaged in criminal activity” that undermined democracy and the rule of law.

The hearing posed significant risks to Mr. Smith, who has said he believes Mr. Trump and his appointees will seize on the smallest misstep to investigate, prosecute and humiliate him. House Republicans had made it clear that they

would make a criminal referral to the Justice Department if his testimony revealed serious inconsistencies or misstatements.

As if to underscore that danger, Mr. Trump took to Truth Social to go after Mr. Smith. Hopefully Attorney General Pam Bondi “is looking at what he’s done, including some of the crooked and corrupt witnesses that he was attempting to use in his case against me,” he wrote.

But the hearing also provided Mr. Smith with what was likely to be his best opportunity to challenge, in an official forum, Mr. Trump’s justification for ordering the Justice Department to pursue

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Sharp Words Split Alliance

U.S. Bid for Greenland Has Europe Rethinking

By STEVEN ERLANGER and JEANNA SMIALEK

BERLIN — The depth of the rift between President Trump and Europe was on full display this week as Mr. Trump delivered remarks in Davos, Switzerland, airing his disdain for Europe’s immigration policies, its regulations and its strident unwillingness to give him Greenland, which he insists America must own.

For months, Europe has been looking to find a diplomatic answer to de-escalate the crisis. Hope for such an offramp came late Wednesday, when Mr. Trump posted on Truth Social to announce that he and Mark Rutte, the NATO secretary general, were working on a deal that could resolve the dispute over Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. He suggested that tariffs he had previously threatened to impose on European nations starting Feb. 1 would no longer kick in.

But neither he nor NATO provided any details of what that framework might look like, and there is no guarantee that such a deal will be finished. A member of the Danish Parliament from Greenland called the deal into question in a social media post, saying it had created “total confusion.”

The dust had not yet settled, but one thing was clear. Mr. Trump’s comments throughout Wednesday underscored just how little the United States and Europe — long the closest of allies — now have in common.

“While we may no longer be literally staring down the barrel of a gun on the trans-Atlantic relationship, we are still in a very rocky place,” said Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, a senior fellow at Bruegel, a research institute in Brussels.

“We are fundamentally at

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PROPOSALS Sovereign U.S. bases and mineral rights are part of a potential Greenland deal. **PAGE A6**

CHAOS With his reversal on tariffs over Greenland, President Trump returned to a familiar role. **PAGE B1**



VINCENT ALBAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ICE Around Every Corner
Minneapolis residents say they carry a sense of dread, even on the city’s empty streets. **PAGE A8.**

South Shudders as Snow and Bitter Cold Loom

By RICK ROJAS

ATLANTA — Blankets of snow and sheets of ice. Blustery winds and temperatures plunging to lows that can burst pipes. Across a vast swath of the country on Thursday, officials and meteorologists warned people to be ready for any of it.

The forecasts this week have been ominous, but blurred by uncertainty. Meteorologists expect a barrage of harsh weather in the

Precautions in Georgia, Texas and Carolinas

eastern two-thirds of the country in the next few days, but exactly which areas will face the brunt of it has been a moving target.

Ocie Fulford certainly wasn’t going to test his luck. He walked out of a Kroger supermarket in Atlanta on Wednesday evening

pushing a cart stuffed with canned goods, bread and peanut butter — enough, he hoped, to keep his two teenage sons fed during whatever comes.

“I’ve also got a delivery of more supplies coming to the home later,” Mr. Fulford, 51, said, “and I went to the Home Depot to get a five-gallon gas canister I filled up.”

He had been through awful winter weather in Atlanta before, no-

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INTERNATIONAL A4-7

China’s High-End Ghost Town
Ocean Flower Island, an unfinished luxury project in Hainan, is a \$12 billion homage to debt-fueled excess. **PAGE A4**

Some Cities See Hottest Year
The overall global average temperature was the third-warmest on record in 2025, part of an 11-year streak. **PAGE A7**

NATIONAL A8-17

Ex-Uvalde Officer Not Guilty
Adrian Gonzales, a former school police officer, had faced 29 counts, 19 for the dead and 10 for the survivors, in the 2022 Texas school shooting. **PAGE A16**

Nurses’ Pay Is Key Strike Issue
As a strike by health workers enters a second week, nurses in New York City are seeking \$200,000 a year. **PAGE A17**

OBITUARIES B11-12

An Eminent Political Scientist
Stephen Hess, a Brookings Institution scholar and one of Washington’s most widely quoted analysts, was 92. **PAGE B11**



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

Jasper Johns’s Turning Point
A New York show looks at his works facing down death to find meaning in life. Above, “Weeping Women.” **PAGE C1**

Leading the Oscar Hunt
The film “Sinners” earned a record 16 nominations, while “One Battle After Another” followed with 13. **PAGE C1**

BUSINESS B1-6

Uber’s Quest to Crack Japan
The ride-hailing giant’s chief executive has made a bet on how it can finally grab a bigger piece of one of the world’s largest taxi markets. The answer may lie in the country’s rural towns. **PAGE B1**

Post Devices Ruled Off-Limits
A federal judge has ordered the government not to review the materials seized during the search of a Washington Post reporter’s home last week. The Post wants them back. **PAGE B3**

OPINION A18-19

Bret Stephens **PAGE A18**



SPORTS B7-10

A Backup Gets His Shot
Jarrett Sidham of the Denver Broncos has the chance to join the list of reserve quarterbacks who came up big in the toughest situations. **PAGE B9**

