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Cotton Demands Probe into Special Counsel Smith's 2024 Election Role

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Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) has called for a formal investigation into Special Counsel Jack Smith, raising concerns about alleged partisan interference in the 2024 presidential election. In a letter sent to Acting Special Counsel Jamieson Greer of the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC), Cotton accused Smith of abusing his federal authority in a politically motivated attempt to damage then-candidate Donald Trump during a critical election cycle. The move marks a serious escalation in calls for accountability among legal actors seen as aligned with the Democratic establishment.

In his request, Cotton wrote, “I write requesting the Office of Special Counsel to investigate whether Jack Smith, Special Counsel for Attorney General Merrick Garland, unlawfully took

political actions to influence the 2024 election to harm then-candidate President Donald Trump.” The OSC, tasked with ensuring that federal employees comply with the Hatch Act, which prohibits partisan political activity while on duty, is uniquely positioned to assess whether Smith’s conduct crossed a legal line.

Cotton’s charges revolve around what he called a “pattern of abnormal legal manoeuvres” spearheaded by Smith in high-profile cases involving Trump. These include the raid of the former president’s Mar-a-Lago residence, indictments linked to the January 6 Capitol protest, and an aggressive push to fast-track Trump’s trial timetable. “Special Counsel Smith pushed for an out-of-the-ordinary, rushed trial for President Trump, with jury selection to begin just two weeks before the Iowa caucuses,” Cotton noted. “No other case of this magnitude and complexity would come to trial this quickly.”

The senator also cited Smith’s attempt to bypass normal judicial procedures by appealing directly to the Supreme Court, despite offering no legal justification. “The real reason was to get a quick ruling to damage Trump before the election, a partisan, unlawful action,” Cotton asserted. According to him, such conduct veered away from legal impartiality and entered the realm of election interference.

A report by *TownHall* highlighted that Smith, who previously served in both the Barack Obama and Joe Biden administrations, had taken an unusually aggressive posture toward Trump, including overseeing the controversial Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) raid on Trump’s private estate. The outlet warned that Smith, who resigned from the Department of Justice (DOJ) in January shortly before Trump returned to office, “may soon get a taste of his own medicine.”

Cotton emphasized that Smith’s behavior was not isolated but part of a broader pattern of politicisation within elements of the DOJ. He also pointed out a 165-page court filing, well above the standard page limit, filed just before the election, which was widely covered in the media. “This was breathlessly covered by the press in a way to damage Trump,” Cotton said. “Why? To help Kamala and hurt Trump. There is no other reason. These actions were not standard, necessary, or justified. They were the actions of a political actor masquerading as a public official.”

If substantiated, Cotton’s allegations would represent a violation of federal law designed to safeguard the neutrality of civil service employees. The senator’s push for accountability underscores growing Republican concerns about the misuse of government institutions for

partisan ends. In an environment already strained by distrust in the justice system, this inquiry may serve as a litmus test for whether the OSC is willing to investigate its own ranks, even when doing so could rattle entrenched power structures.