

National security

[Special counsel Jack] Smith's job is straightforward. He must ... make clear to the jury that this case is about two simple things: First, a former president took documents containing some of our nation's most sensitive secrets, which he was no more entitled to remove than the portraits of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin hanging on the walls of the Oval Office. Second, when he was caught, he persistently made up excuses, lied and tried to cover up his behavior, which he continues to do.

...

It is impossible to overstate how essential it will be for Mr. Smith to ... persuade the trial jury ... he committed serious criminal acts. The consequence of doing that would be nothing short of affirmation of the rule of law in this country.

The alternative is too grim to contemplate.

**Norman Eisen, Andrew Weissmann, Joyce Vance.
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