

In the most surreal recounting, Hutchinson told the committee Secret Service agents responsible for Trump's safety informed her the president attempted to wrest control of the armored vehicle in which he was riding after the driver refused his order to be taken to the Capitol at the height of the assault.

Her story was immediately challenged by Secret Service officers who said the incident never occurred, while Republican critics accused her of peddling outrageous secondhand hearsay as solid evidence.

The committee attested to her credibility while Republican critics ratcheted up their characterization of the panel as a one-sided partisan political show trial that had predetermined conclusions before the first witness was heard.

Her testimony will have no significant impact on the congressional midterm elections, in which voters are more concerned with \$5 a gallon gasoline than whether Trump berated his security detail.

But the steady drumbeat of testimony revealing an administration obsessed with remaining in power and seriously debating skirting the law to do so have nicked the former president and led some national Republicans to distance themselves from Trump without renouncing him altogether.