Rep. Tom Emmer on Fox and Friends

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BRIAN:

whip, but this time he'll be the minority whip. Minnesota Congressman Tom Emmer joins us now. Congressman, there's such a cushion for the Democrats, unlike what you guys experience. Do you think that you can effectively marginalize the far left voices because of the amount of cushion Akeem Jeffries is likely to have?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Actually, Brian, by the way, good morning and happy Veterans Day. Thank you to every veteran and their family. We absolutely appreciate you. When it comes to what we can do, we've done it before, Brian. Yes, they have this huge majority, but it's going to be short lived. Keep in mind there are 29 seats that they won, which Donald Trump won four years ago or two years ago by over 10 points. There's another 10 seats that Donald Trump by five to 10 points. So there's 39 seats. You watch what we do. We will hold them accountable every day for the false promises, the lies, I would argue, that they told the American people. And we've got to start using the language. They're so good at creating the narrative. It is not health care for all. It is government only health care. We've got to start calling these things what they are, and we're going to hold them accountable each and every day.

BRIAN:

So one of the big questions is how did they win by such margins, especially in red states? I think we have a clue. Van Jones actually unmasked the strategy. Watch.

VAN JONES:

How did we win the narrative on affordability? The Republicans never figured out what we were doing. There's something called the American Accountability Network. Tens of thousands of online humans, not bots, coordinated to make the affordability message a winning message online. 32.5 million people hit on Instagram every day, 88.8 million hit on Twitter every single day, and 185 million Facebook hits every single day. And they never figured it out.

BRIAN:

So I mean, that's the first time I was hearing that after Van Jones said it, your thoughts about what he just did and what the Democrats just pulled off.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, the interesting thing is it's people act like Republicans aren't doing some of the same things we are. What's very interesting, based on what Van Jones has said, you pull one thing out of there. They were humans, not bots. Really? This is the idea that they are the majority message in this country, and they're not. We did do

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a very poor job. These guys are great at messaging, and they chose the word affordability because we know it was always going to be about the economy, Brian. But affordability allows you to pick out trees in the economy. You can pick out gas prices. You can pick out housing. Whatever it is, you can focus on that. And we didn't counter so that people were not talking about the fact that poverty is at its all-time lowest, that individual income is at its all-time highest. We've got to start talking to the American people over the next two years about what we're going to do to address those problems that they made the showcase of this election. Because guess what, Brian, they caused these problems, and now they're coming back. You literally are hiring the arsonists that started the fire, and we're going to show the American public that.

BRIAN:

All right. So you're going to be the majority for a few weeks in the lame duck session. What can you possibly get done, being that some of your guys and women are not coming back to work like Corey Mills?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, we had this conversation a couple of days ago, and Corey's a friend. I'll be talking to Corey. We'll see if he will reassess and come back, because he is a true patriot. But our guys, they have an attitude that while we have this slim majority, it's time to get a bunch of stuff done before we get out of here in December. So watch for a ... Well, you're going to see the NDAA. That's got to get done. You're going to ... Appropriations bills that have to be done. We've got a Senate that's going to have to move some things as well.

BRIAN:

Yeah. Including judges. That will be one of the main things. And then, of course, it would be great to be able to fund the Pentagon. They need $45 billion of supplemental. Right. All right. Thanks. Congratulations on the nomination. You're still in favor with your party, so I know you're going to have a lot of hard work ahead of you. Thanks so much.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thank you, Brian.

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