

Rep. Tom Emmer on The John Fredericks Show

Radio

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****HOST:**

** Joining me now is Majority Whip Minnesota Representative Tom Emmer. Whip Emmer, thanks for being with us, sir.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hey, great to be with you. I hope Texas is treating you well.

****HOST:**

** Well, it always is, and I do miss Washington, D.C. Wish I was there with you guys, but it is what it is right now. But Tom, tell me a little bit about now. We got this deal coming out of the Senate, both sides claiming victory. I really don't even know what the point of the shutdown was for 42 days, but we got to get our people paid. Now you got to get a vote out and again in the House. And by the way, you guys pass everything with a effective one-seat majority when you minus out Massey. How do you guys do it? Oh, that's because you're the whip. Forgot it. That's right. Unbelievable.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah. Well, we pass things because we're in the majority. I mean, we got a lot of Republicans who are like, oh, no, you've got such a slim. It doesn't matter. We have a majority. And Republicans have been getting it done with Donald J. Trump. Now, in the Senate, they did pass something last night, but you should think about this, John, and I'm sure you've already been talking about it because of the Democrats' radical base. The Department of Homeland Security has been in a government shutdown for roughly half the fiscal year. Think about that. The fiscal year ends at the end of September. If you look at the fiscal year, because of their 43-day shutdown last fall, the record shutdown, and now this new one, it's been half the fiscal year. That's unacceptable. TSA, Coast Guard, and FEMA are all not getting paid because of the Democrats' refusal to do the responsible thing, fund the government. Now, the House passed a bicameral, bipartisan funding bill. Think about that, John. This was an agreement by Republicans and Democrats. We passed it three separate times, including just yesterday. But you've got these crazy, left-wing, radical Senate Democrats that, by the way, Chuck Schumer does not lead. He doesn't lead them. He follows them. This guy is so desperate to stay in his leadership position, he's not leading anything. And he sounds more and more ridiculous when he opens his mouth. But, literally, they have refused to pass the bill until early this morning. The Senate passed, with unanimous consent and pretty much no one in the chamber, a bill to fund a majority of the Department of Homeland Security. Now, remember, the radical Democrats in the Senate demanded radical reforms to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. They didn't get any of them, John, so I don't know how these guys can claim victory. I'm sure they will. But what we're going to do now is, Speaker Johnson and the House, we're all working on how to proceed with this bill today to reopen the department as quickly as possible. And I guess I would add one last thing, that thanks to the one big, beautiful bill, there's money to supplement and support Immigration and Customs Enforcement's operations already. So, you know, Donald Trump played these guys,

he played, they tried to play the American people and they lost again. It's just, it's ridiculous.

****HOST:**

** Our question is, this is 42 days, people didn't get paid for six weeks. All John Thune had to do was suspend the filibuster for two votes. He could have passed your SAVE Act with a 50-50 tie in advance and he could have opened the government in six hours. I guess our frustration is, why didn't he just go ahead and do that?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah, I know that we're not supposed to, you know, it's bad form they're telling me to, you know, get involved in Senate process, but John, I've had enough of their filibuster. I think it's a joke. I think, why not just pass a rule, if you're not willing to get rid of the filibuster, which Democrats will do immediately if they ever have the majority back, and they've already told us what they're going to do with it. If you're not willing to get rid of it, at least pass a rule, at least pass a rule that as long as any part of the government remains unfunded, that the filibuster is lifted, it's suspended until the government is fully funded, and you can pass anything with the funding bill on a 50-plus-1 vote. Why can't you at least do that? Then once the government is funded, you can have your, what, most beloved filibuster back. Well, the whole thing is ridiculous, and I appreciate your candor and your forthrightness.

****HOST:**

** We're with Tom Emmer, Majority Whip in the House of Representatives, Congressman of Minnesota. I appreciate your forthrightness here, because that's what, you know, a lot of us are just frustrated over what you just said. I mean, like we were talking this morning, there was no point to this government shutdown. It was pointless. And it's, you know, people are suffering. And then I think what really annoyed Majority Whip Emmer a lot of people was when they couldn't vote on Senator Kennedy's bill to suspend their own pay, and Chance runs in there, objects, Banks does nothing, the parliamentarian says fine, then he runs out while he pees down his leg or something. I mean, it's just, when people aren't getting paid, you know, come on, it's just, it's like, you guys don't even want to have a vote on your own pay, so you run and hide. And like, these people are sleeping in their cars and selling their blood. I mean, it's just, it's just frustrating.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hey, John, I'm going to throw a little gasoline on that flame that you're burning. Because what makes it even more frustrating is these guys do nothing until guess what? They're going to get a two-week vacation for Easter, and then at three in the morning, because they don't want to stay here, they finally pass something that doesn't really accomplish anything that these radical lefties wanted. Why, John? Because they're all about their core beliefs and their principles? No, because they just want to get out of town. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

****HOST:**

** All right. Let's get to President Trump's request, \$200 million funding for the Iran effort. Let's call it the war. And he wants \$200 million to be sure that we have enough resources to finish the job. And it's obviously, you know, events are changing by the day, and that's what war does. So you understand that. So I don't necessarily have a quarrel with that. But you're also, right now, leading people out in your conference, right? Nancy Mace says she's not voting for it. I think it was Laura Bulbert came out the other day. She's not voting for it. Massey's not voting for it. There goes your majority. You're going to have to pass this, I guess, with Democrat votes now? How's that look, Majority Left member?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah, well, I think, you know, maybe there are some Democrats in the House that are still willing to buck the radical, vicious, violent, Marxist-Socialist left wing, anarchist left wing. So I guess that's possible. But I don't count Democrat votes. And you just mentioned three members that I work with on a regular basis. And they're fully entitled and within their rights to announce the way they feel about it today. But that doesn't mean that's how they're going to vote ultimately, right? We've had this many different times. I tell members, unlike some who say, oh, don't get out there too far and say what you'll never do. For me, this is an emotional business. People have emotional reactions. Some people react by being quiet and thinking it through. And some people react by telling you exactly what they're thinking at that moment under that emotion. And I think right now we need to look at the \$200 billion that's been requested. There are all kinds of ways that I know our members on the Budget Committee and our committee members have already found ways to pay for that, John, which I think is very promising. Assuming we can reach agreement on that, look, the bottom line is not how you're feeling about this. The bottom line is Donald Trump is not starting a war. He is finishing one that's been going on for 47 years. Iran has killed more Americans than any terrorist organization on the face of the planet. And for years, whether it's been a Republican or a Democrat in the White House, they have just kicked this can down the road. I would argue that Jimmy Carter should have finished this back in 1979 when I was a senior in high school. And now, thank God, we have President Trump who says enough is enough. These guys were trying to tell us two weeks, two weeks before this mission started, the Iranians were claiming they did not have long-distance capability. What have they done since this started? They wheeled out some ballistic missiles that could hit London, John, which means that they are not that far, if we believe them, they're not that far from hitting the U.S. mainland. And I wouldn't believe them. I wouldn't trust that. I think the president has done the right thing. I think he's going to wrap this up shortly. And for us in Congress, we need to look at our young men and women who are carrying out this mission, and we've got to take care of them. So our job is to make sure the \$200 billion is appropriate and necessary, and then to make sure that these young people that are defending freedom here and abroad have the resources and the tools they need to accomplish the mission.

****HOST:**

** You know, it's fascinating what you're saying. This is why you're such an unbelievably effective majority whip, passing everything with basically a one-vote, two-vote majority in there, is that people get emotional and they'll say certain things to the media, but then when it comes time to vote, you've got opportunity to present facts and perhaps change their mind in a different way. That's basically what you said.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah. Yeah. I mean, it's like early, you don't have all the facts. But I understand Thomas Massey, for instance, is an anti-military war. I don't know how he says it. He's going to be a contrarian with that. He will be probably the toughest out of that group. Nancy Mace, she's a patriot. She served in our armed forces. And Lauren Boebert, I know her heart is always in the right place when it comes to our men and women in uniform and to the mission. But again, they're confronted with a question. They are in a certain place when they're asked that question, and they come out and tell you what they're thinking. But that doesn't mean that they have all the facts, and frankly, that we have all the facts that we need to make that final decision. And that's why, John, I've had this many times where members come out and say, I'll never do this. And guess what? Two weeks later, they're voting yes, because, yes, they got the information that they didn't have when they made that first statement.

****HOST:**

** So I'm going to I'm going to trust you on this, that you're going to have the votes to pass, because obviously, if it doesn't, it would be very embarrassing for the president. But look, if you're an American citizen, we

understand the financial dire the country's end. But I thought the ICBM that was that got into is really got got through their defenses that they looked at and said, hey, these things can hit London. And the one of the one of the newspapers in the United Kingdom had that right on their front page. I mean, to me, that was a game changer for everybody. It's like all the people, you know, this war, you know, why did we go there? There was no imminent threat. Well, they got ICBMs that can hit London, Berlin, Paris, Istanbul, Budapest. Yeah, you got a problem because, you know, you got a big you got a big problem.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah. And by the way, John, before we leave it, when you talk about, you know, passing this stuff, look, I'm you can count on this one thing. I will always play to win. That is what we're here to do. I don't care if we have one vote, one vote extra. I don't care if we have no extra votes. We come here to win. And anybody who tries to qualify, which politicians do all the time, they want to be on both sides of the issue. I'm not going to do that. I'm going to tell you that our job is to win for the American people. Donald Trump is the one who sets the table and we're the ones that make sure we clear it off. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We'll take each one of these as they come up and then we'll get the job done.

****HOST:**

** Speaking of winning midterms, OK, we're doing a bus tour after Texas. I'm going to Virginia, my wife and I, who runs a company sanctioned to Paul with Heritage Action on the redistricting, on the gerrymandering, the rig maps. And that thing is now two months ago. That was a done deal. We couldn't beat it. Now this thing's at risk for them. They spent forty five million dollars. They've not moved the needle. I think we have a shot to defeat that thing. That's going to be critical on April 21st. If we can get that defeated in Virginia, you guys have a fighting chance to hold the house, Tom.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** All right, look, first off, Virginians believe Virginians, for the most part, are common sense people, John. Yeah, they don't always do what a Republican wants them to do. They do what they think is right. But I know one thing, they believe in fairness. They are Americans that regardless of whether you're on the left of the center or you're on the right of the center, they believe in fairness. And what has happened here, what has given you a fighting chance to defeat this unconstitutional referendum, I would argue, is the fact that you elected a governor who lied during her campaign. Abigail Spanberger sold Virginians a bill of goods when she tried to make it look like she was a moderate whatever. Well, guess what? Congratulations. You now have Tim Walz in a dress running the state of Virginia. And because of everything that she has done in short order to show that she is a radical left wing nutbag, Virginians are looking at this and saying that's not fair and this is not right. And I think that's what gives you the opportunity, John, to upend this thing. And when we talk about the midterms, yes, that will help. But I think you would agree with me. We have never lost a midterm in March. Right. Everybody that wants to talk about it today, like, oh, it's going to go this way or that way. The bottom line is we've never had a better map in the House of Representatives for a midterm. They're defending 16 seats that Donald Trump won. They also have another more than 20 of their members in seats that they won by less than five points because Donald Trump moved the needle with traditional Democrat and independent voters more than anybody else. And John, what this is going to come down to is what it always comes down to. You've got the vast majority of the public does not wear a partisan jersey like I do. They do not do this year round. They're trying to put food on the table, pay the mortgage, trying to take their kids on a vacation. They aren't paying attention to this. They will wake up after Labor Day and they will ask themselves an emotional question, which is, do I feel better about my economic situation today than I did with this started? And the second part is, do I see a bright and prosperous future for myself and my family going forward? I believe both questions will be

answered a resounding yes, in large part because of the big, beautiful bill and everything else that Donald J. Trump and Republicans have managed to accomplish in such a short period of time. And when it is, you are going to hold the midterms. But this prognosticating in March is frankly, it might be fun for some people. It might be sport, but nobody ever lost an election in March.

****HOST:**

** I love your I love your optimism. And we want to get you out of course. We want to get you on during our bus tour in Texas. But then we also want to get you on a bus tour in Virginia, because when we did this poll from Heritage Action, Hakeem Jeffries has spent forty five million dollars and they can't get over forty seven percent yes votes on it. Twenty five percent of Democrats are voting no. Thirty three percent of independents are voting no. But here's the thing. When you take unsure and voting no, we're actually ahead. Fifty four to forty seven. If you're unsure, you're not voting for this thing. The other thing is, I think this is a base election. I think we're going to be able to get our base out. We've got a fighting chance to beat this thing. And the other poll showed us, get this, Tom, 25 percent of Republicans are voting in favor of it because they don't understand it, because they have manipulated the wording and they put ads with Donald Trump on mailers saying that, you know, we're fighting for fair elections and it's a complete scam. So once we get enough money and get this bus tour going to get our message out, that 25 percent of Republicans is going to evaporate for them. That's why I think we can actually defeat this now, where two months ago I didn't think we had a fighting chance. Now we do.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, John, I think the efforts that you're making, your bus tour, I think the efforts that the delegation is making from the senior member, Rob Whitman, all the way through Jen Kagan's, they're all working very hard to motivate their voters and to educate them so they understand exactly what this is. And when you bring up Hakeem Jeffries, I mean, let's be realistic. We know that man didn't graduate close to the top of his class in any level of his academic experience. And he listen, he might even I suspect he thinks more on his two words because he he he's out there all the time saying really foolish things that he cannot back up. I it's he's not a true leader. I don't see him even leading their minority in the next Congress. But we'll have to humor him for now and be very happy that he's the one that is pushing this sort of thing, because much like Abigail, Abigail Sandberger, these guys are not real. And we just got to make sure that Virginians who are very smart and very educated have all the facts because you will defeat this. And ultimately, the courts should defeat it anyway. But it'd be better to take care of it at the ballot box.

****HOST:**

** Can you win the governor's race in Minnesota?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** We can we can win the governor's race. I mean, they brought Amy Klobuchar. And I frankly, I think it's the it's the worst decision that Amy's made. I do work with Amy on a regular basis and we don't agree on all politics. But she's built a career off of being with everyone. I mean, if you're pro-life, she's with you. If you're pro-choice, she's with you. If you're pro-mining, she's with you. If you're pro-environment, anti-mining, she's with you. You're running for a chief executive position. This is different than being a senator in the United States Senate, which is moves about as fast as a sea turtle. These guys, now you are going to have to be with us or with them. And I've got news for you. The vast majority of Minnesotans are on the right side. They're fiscally conservative, even if they might be a more liberally liberal socially, they're still fiscally conservative. And the fraud issue, I mean, you're talking as much as nine billion dollars in fraud that has gone out in the last seven plus years under the Tim Walz administration. Amy Klobuchar hasn't said a word about fraud, not a word. By the way, she won

my district in 2018. She lost it in 2024. Her numbers have been dropping precipitously. So, yes, we can win the governor's race. More importantly, we could win a U.S. Senate seat there. I mean, it's pretty interesting. You've got the radical left is really upending the party. It's that crazy Marxist anarchist group that is in Minneapolis, especially with the primary. Think about this. You've got Angie Craig, who will have all the money, but she knows that her numbers are in the tank against this radical, wild, wild eyed Peggy Flanagan, the current lieutenant governor from Minneapolis. Crazy. We have as low as seven percent turnout the second Tuesday in August for the primary, and we've had roughly 12 to 15 percent. So guess who shows up, John? All the crazies from Minneapolis. So Peggy Flanagan is likely going to be their candidate. And that is good for us.

****HOST:**

** Have you made any endorsements, Majority Whip, Emmer, in either the Senate or the governor's race on the Republican side?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Not in Minnesota, not in Minnesota. Nobody cares what I think about that. Our process is great. I think it's more important for me to keep pointing out just how worthless our senators have been at the federal level and then point out the fraud that has taken place under this administration and keep calling out what is going to change. Nothing is going to change unless you change it fundamentally. And the only way you can change it fundamentally is by replacing these corrupt. They're not even liberal anymore. They're Marxist communist crazies on the left. The only way you're going to fix it is by cleaning house and replacing them with Republicans in November.

****HOST:**

** Marxist communist crazies. OK, we got to go. But we got to talk. We got to talk a second here. Baseball, right? Twitter is a heartbreaker. Two to one on the road. Astros get shut out at home by, I don't know, California Angels or Anaheim, whatever the heck they are. We don't. You know, two hits with the guys on base. We get shut out. You guys lose two to one. We scored one run between our two teams in 18 minutes. That's not good.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah. But, you know, that's why they play. That's why we got one hundred and sixty one games left. So we're going to be all right. Watch out for the Anaheim Angels. I've been watching a bunch of the spring training late at night. And there's something about their pitching. It could be very interesting. The twins were surprising yesterday. Baltimore is supposed to be this new juggernaut bringing over Pete Alonso. And, you know, they got this young course still. And Rodgers look good. But Joe Ryan, my goodness. Joe Ryan looks fantastic. I mean, tell you what, he is. That's the one guy they didn't give up in their rebuild. So very, very effective.

****HOST:**

** No doubt about it. And I tell you what, you'll be fine. Minnesota Wild. You guys got a shot to win the Stanley Cup. You guys got a shot.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** We do. But the NHL has to do something about their program. Nobody really cares about the divisions. It's all about the conferences. Right. And it's one through eight in the conference to make it to the playoffs. And unfortunately, because they do this division thing, Minnesota is going to have to play either Dallas or Colorado in the first round. The three best teams in the West and arguably the three best teams in the league. If you

accept Carolina and Buffalo.

****HOST:**

** I definitely understand the frustration with that, because if you look at if you look at some of these teams that are that are in the Eastern Conference, a lot of them, if they were in the West, wouldn't even make the playoffs. And they're like the number four seed. So we got that. That's right. But I like the Wild. I like everything about this team. And I think they got a shot to win the cup. And look, eventually you got to get get past Dallas. You know, I'll get it over with. Right. Eventually, you get up, get up to face Denver, Colorado. So you might as well get him out. OK, final thing. Who's going to win the NCAA basketball tournament? Who's your pick?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, better be Arizona because I got nothing left. I don't even know. Did Arizona did they play? They won. No, they beat. They beat somebody last night by 20. They beat. Yeah, but Houston got blown out, didn't they? Houston got blown out. Purdue won by two over Texas. And then we go on today. I bet I bet to win it all. I bet Duke back when they were like three and a half to one. So we'll see what happens. But Arizona was really good last night. Really good. All I can say, John, is historically it's been pretty what it pays to to play against the big ten. And all of a sudden, the big ten are showing up this time. It's just wild. They're showing up.

****HOST:**

** Tom Emmer, people want to follow you. Where do they go?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Tom Emmer dot com.

****HOST:**

** All right. Thank you. Hey, I got to give a shout out to Sally Fox. Absolutely. Your communications director is phenomenal. Man, you want to keep her. She's the best. I I don't work with anybody there. Anybody better. She's just what you just said.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** What you just said. You said she's phenomenal. And I was going to say, actually, she is the best. But you corrected it and said she is the best. Sally is the best. No, no doubt about it.

****HOST:**

** Big, big shout out to Sally Fox. Tom, thanks for being with us. We're at CPAC. I got to roll. So do you. Good luck today in your conference. Tom Emmer, majority.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Thanks, John. I don't see any transcript segment provided in your message. You mentioned "Transcript segment:" but there's no actual transcript text following that line. Could you please provide the transcript segment you'd like me to add speaker labels to? Once you share the text, I'll be happy to add the appropriate speaker labels (HOST and REP. TOM EMMER) while preserving all the original text exactly as instructed.

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