



Rep. Tom Emmer on SquawkBox with Joe Kernen

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****JOE:**

** Republicans are continuing to work on a reconciliation bill with hopes of having it passed by July 4th. Joining us now with the latest House Majority Whip Tom Emmer. Does that sound feasible to you Congressman?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Oh yeah, we're gonna do it earlier in the House, Joe. Good morning.

****JOE:**

** Good morning. What's it include right now? What can you tell us since last time you were on? And then I want to talk about a very interesting piece regarding Medicaid and sort of the quandary facing Republicans at this point. Pretty interesting. Just some tough love from the editorial board about that this is the moment for Republicans to actually face down what has been become, you know, really kind of an embarrassment on who Medicaid favors. It favors able-bodied men over pregnant women and disabled people. And yet Republicans are afraid to take it on directly. You're gonna get, you're gonna get hammered either way by the Democrats. Why not try and fix it at this point and save 880 billion?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Unlike you Joe, the reporting on this stuff is not exactly right down the middle. But first where we're at with the bill, we've got 11 committees of jurisdiction that are writing a piece of this bill. I don't think any reconciliation process before this one has ever had as many committees involved in the process. We got seven of those committees done last week. We've got four to go. We don't have hearings scheduled yet this week because people are working out the details. And as soon as that's done, the goal that our speaker has is to put this on the floor by the week of May 19th. So the goal is to get it out of the house before Memorial Day and we're still on track to do that. That's what makes it big and that's what makes it beautiful, I guess the president would say.

****JOE:**

** We'll talk about Medicaid in a second. What's it gonna, how are you gonna pay for any of the new tax proposals from the president if you extend all of the 2017 tax cuts?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well remember, extending them, we've got differences of opinion in both the House and the Senate as to how you do that as well. On the House side, they have included pay-fors for even extending the tax cuts that have been in place for seven years, since 2017. Anything additional, they'll have to find offsets for that and I leave that to our chair Jason Smith and his committee. They'll let us know what that is.

****JOE:**



** You'd be okay with raising a millionaire on millionaires, raising the top rate back to 40%?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah, that's a cute campaign slogan, but the fact of the matter is that two or three percent isn't going to make the difference. Our government already has enough revenue, Joe. The issue is we've got a spending problem. We've got to address it. I think extending the tax cuts that have been in place for the last seven years is imperative. If we don't get it done, Joe, the average American is going to experience \$1,600 in increase in their taxes, the average American. And 40 million American families are going to lose half of their child care tax credits, or their child tax credits. So it's imperative that this gets done so that we don't have a four and a half to five trillion dollar tax increase on all Americans.

****JOE:**

** Then if you're gonna extend those and do the tax on no tax on tips and all these other sort of new ideas from the president, you say you're gonna have some pay for it. I don't know where you go if you don't go at least look at Medicaid because the savings you just can't get anywhere else. And you've got something sort of on a platter here. 50, right now the Feds pick up 50 to 77 percent of the tab for pregnant women or for disabled people. Yet the Feds pay 90 percent for prime age adults eligible to work and everything else because of Obamacare. And it's that way now in a lot of states sort of entered that Faustian bargain you know to pass it and now they're addicted to it. But that would be a natural place to start. Is that a possibility?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Actually the natural place to start is exactly where Donald Trump wants us to start, which is getting the waste, fraud, and abuse out of the program Joe. According to the GAO there's about 50 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program on an annual basis. That's 500 billion over the 10-year budget cycle. Then you start taking out illegals. There's no reason that illegal aliens should be receiving Medicaid benefits. This the stuff you're talking about is under the Biden expansion. There's definitely discussion amongst our members about how you might approach that. But the president has made it very clear that we're not going to cut Medicaid benefits for those that it's intended for.

****JOE:**

** You're gonna be whipping and I wasn't you know we call some people Mr. Chairman, Mr. Leader, Mr. Speaker. I can't call you Mr. Whip. I just don't think that's so congressman is that work for you? Congressman or what's the proper thing I should be calling you?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** It's some of the nicest things they call me Joe.

****JOE:**

** Yeah compared to the other stuff you call. So are you gonna be able to, how's the Freedom Caucus? How are the people that you know watching the president's poll numbers? How are people in districts that President Trump barely carried? How do you get all those cats wrangled together for the big beautiful bill? That's a tough job. I wouldn't even accept that job if I were you. It's too hard.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**



** Well keep in mind Joe. I mean you're focusing on my side of the aisle which I expect because we're the ones that are governing. But there are 13 Democrats that are sitting in seats across this country that Donald Trump won in November. There's another 21 or 22 that won by less than five points. So really the American people voted for this reform and that's what we're gonna do. We're gonna perform with this reconciliation bill. We're gonna get it done and it's going to it's really gonna set this country off on that golden age that Donald Trump campaigned on and has promised.

****JOE:**

** Yeah but say what you will about the Democrats. They are when push comes to shove they don't break ranks like like Republicans do. You won't get a single one of those 13.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** That's their that's their choice. That's their choice. Look our colleagues on the other side of the aisle right now they don't have a leader. They don't have a message. They don't know what they stand for. They actually should listen to the American people and join us in trying to put our government back in a position to work for the people instead of rule over them and spend money willy-nilly everywhere. Let's focus on the priorities that the American public expects us to focus on and I think our colleagues on the other side of the aisle soon will start to recognize that's who they need to listen to rather than their leadership.

****JOE:**

** Oh my god. Okay I hear you. I don't know. I always refer to that that caucus as the board collective. They all they vote they should only take one vote. It's just should be you know yay or nay just all of them because they there's never any never any no one breaks off of that faction. All right so you think July 4th. We'll be watching. I'd like to talk about something besides tariffs so so we will hopefully have you back and do that. Thank you Congressman.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Congressman Whipp.

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