



Rep. Tom Emmer on The John Fredericks Show - January 22, 2026

Podcast

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JOHN FREDERICKS:

Going to the number three leader in the Republican House of Representatives, majority whip Tom Emmer from Minnesota. Sorry, Tom. Great to have you with us. Congressman Emmer, Whip Emmer, great. What is going on in Minnesota?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, it's been going on for a long time, John. Great to see you. Sorry you have to be over on the left coast, but maybe you'll bring some much-needed sanity to that amazing state. Minnesota is the mini California, right? We got a governor who likes to wear flannel shirts. He's Gavin Newsom in a flannel shirt, although he's not nearly as slick or smart. He has allowed, by some reports, \$9 billion to be bilked out of his administration over the last seven years. And as the walls are closing in on Tim Walz, we've got this incident that took place in Minneapolis a couple weeks ago. And for people who are watching, I'd be amazed if they weren't aware that a protester rammed an Immigration Customs Enforcement officer with her van, which is an act of deadly force. In response, she was shot and killed. That incident would have been prevented completely had the Minneapolis Police Department provided the perimeter that the local police are typically responsible for. They're responsible for setting a perimeter so people like that unfortunate gal don't get in the way of what ICE is doing. That didn't happen. We had that unfortunate incident and guess what? Ever since then, Tim Walz, Keith Ellison, these guys have been fomenting it. It's almost like a return to what they call the summer of love, which I call the summer of fire in downtown Minneapolis. It's not good, John. It needs to end very quickly.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Vice President Vance going there today. So obviously President Trump at Davos doubling down on what is going on, putting more ICE agents there. Also has threatened the Insurrection Act. I understand we have 1,500 federal troops ready for deployment. How do you stand on that, majority whip Tom Emmer?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I got to tell you, John, I understand exactly where the president is coming from. Tim Walz literally went in public and said we're fighting the federal government. He thinks he's Jefferson Davis of the 21st century. He believes that he's this kind of leader that's going to fight the federal law enforcement and stop them from doing their job. And he's been inciting this behavior. He'll try to tell you and others and the lamestream media—he'll try to tell them that, oh, I'm doing everything I can to de-escalate. But then he goes on TV. He challenges all these so-called protesters, but they're paid, John. They're paid. It's not all of Minnesota. They want to make it look like it's this huge uprising, but it's organized. You've got paid agitators. And he tells them, "Take your phones out, tape everything that these federal law enforcement are doing, and literally try to obstruct them from doing their job." And it's just a bad situation. So I understand exactly where the president's coming from. I've also told



business leaders, I've told mayors, you want this to settle down real quick, call the governor, tell them to stand down, and then get your local law enforcement to enter into 287(g)s. These are agreements that local law enforcement have with federal law enforcement. This is where Tom Homan, by the way, John, when he says, "Hey, if you don't want us on your streets, let us in your jails." What does that mean? He's saying we'll reach an agreement with any local law enforcement agency where you can actually do the federal law enforcement job of going out, locating the worst of the worst. And you should see some of these people. It's not getting published, John. Rapists, murderers. They've had deportation orders for years that have not been exercised. Homan is like, "All right, you go get them. You bring them into your jail. Then call us. We'll pick them up and we'll do our job." If that happens, John, all of this settles down rather quickly. If it doesn't, then I'm afraid the federal law enforcement has a job to do. We do not want rapists, murderers, sex offenders, child predators. We do not want them walking the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul anymore. We want them to be apprehended and removed.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Where does this end, Tom?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Again, I think it ends right there. As soon as these guys start to realize this is not your political grandstand, which is what Tim Walz has used it for. Keith Ellison, for God's sakes, what kind of a numbnuts is this guy? He's supposed to be a lawyer. He tells Minnesota and the media that when paid protesters, including the failed so-called journalist Don Lemon, when they interrupt a faith—a church, they went into a church during a service and started interrupting the service. Do you know, John, that our attorney general says that is protected under the First Amendment? It's not. There are some things that are not protected by the First Amendment and that is one of them. In fact, that is very likely a violation of federal law. And look, it ends when people start getting arrested, when they start getting prosecuted and held accountable, and when the politicians leave law enforcement to do the job that they're supposed to be doing. That's when it ends.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Tom Emmer with us, majority whip, House of Representatives, Republican Conference, number three in leadership for Minnesota. Tom, this fraud in Minnesota, some people say \$9 billion, some people say it could be as high as \$20 billion. How deep does it go? And is it going to get traced back to Walz, Ellison, or anybody else in Minnesota state government that might have been looking the other way or even been complicit?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Look, I don't think you can let a million dollars go out in administration, John, without somebody knowing, without somebody seeing it. In this case, they're already up to a billion. And like you said, the US Attorney's office has estimated that it could go as high as \$9 billion. And who knows, it could go higher. In this case, what you've heard about from Minnesota up till now—and I credit President Trump with this because we've been trying to sound the alarm on this fraud for years, but the local media refused to cover it. I'll give you an example. The assistant US attorney is interviewed last summer and he makes a statement in the interview that the fraud under the Walz administration will take your breath away. I thought all right, now it's going to start. That's the thread and it'll start to unravel. You know what? They buried it. There's a 50-minute tape out there with our attorney general Keith Ellison on it talking to the Somali fraudsters who are involved in the Feeding Our Future theft. That was \$250 million, largest COVID fraud pandemic fraud case in the country. John, there's a 50-minute tape where Keith Ellison is telling these Somali fraudsters he will obstruct any state agency that attempts to investigate. John, that should be news all over the country. And it wasn't. The local paper, the main paper, the Tribune, is literally run by Tim Walz's former commerce commissioner. It is an arm of Tim Walz's administration



and all it does is try to cover up. Well, Donald Trump about a month ago on a Friday night does a Truth where he calls out the Somali fraudsters, how they're ripping off Minnesota, all this stuff. What the Twin Cities media didn't understand—it's genius by Trump. They unwittingly engaged with Trump. Why? Because of the Somali fraud? No. Because they hate Donald Trump. So they go after Donald Trump for his alleged racist, xenophobic remarks. And guess what? Donald Trump pulled the curtain open because now they're drawn into this national discussion about the real fraud. \$250 million Feeding Our Future, \$161 million for housing fraud, 80 autism centers under investigation. You've seen the child-learning center that Nick Shirley found. I mean, Nick Shirley found more fraud in a matter of hours on one day than Tim Walz and Keith Ellison have found in seven years. And John, why? Because he was looking for it. You ask me who's going to be held accountable. The former US assistant district attorney Joe Thompson was doing a great job, but he was prosecuting one at a time. You know, as a lawyer, when you're going to prosecute public officials, it doesn't work when you do it—in my opinion, when you do it in one case at a time. What you got to do, which is going to happen now, Dan Rosen is the US attorney appointed by Donald Trump. Dan Rosen is going to commence a grand jury where all these whistleblowers, some estimate there's a thousand whistleblowers out there, John, that they can now come behind closed doors out of this crooked media and all the rest of it and give their testimony under oath so the US Attorney's office can build a case and who knows where it goes, but I'll say this to you. If these whistleblowers are real, and I believe they are, and if they can document what they're claiming, which is one, they told Tim Walz and they told Keith Ellison about the fraud as it was happening, and two, or three, whatever it is, they not only ignored the whistleblowers, but Tim Walz retaliated against them. If that can be documented, Tim Walz should be leaving the office in cuffs. That's my opinion.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Well, the retaliation, I think, is the main thing that you said because look, obviously they knew about it. Obviously this money—they looked the other way because the Somalia vote base, many of them illegal, shouldn't even be voting, is their power center. I mean, that's how they get elected. And this has got to go deep. But you know what's even sadder? Tom Emmer with us, majority whip member, third leadership position in the Republican conference in the House. What's even sadder is I spent 30 years in the newspaper business, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, spent time at Minneapolis when Mlache took it over when I worked for Mlache newspapers. I mean, this was always the purpose of the local paper of record running legal ads in your area. I mean, you would have thought that those investigative journalists there would have jumped on this thing either from the Pioneer Press or the Minneapolis Star Tribune, neither of them could care less because all they wanted to do was basically protect the narrative of the communists out there. I mean, it's a sad state of affairs.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah. No, it is. And by the way, so what do they do? They attack this Nick Shirley kid because he did their job.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

He did their work!

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah! I mean, it's right under their nose. And John, I'm old school. I think that they should hold people accountable. I don't care if they hold me accountable, everybody else, but they should be holding us accountable and they don't hold Tim Walz and the Democrats accountable. In this case, that paper is dying. It's unfortunate. Well, actually, I don't think it is unfortunate. I look forward to writing the congratulations on going out of business letter. They—on January 1st, I don't know if you know this, but that paper that you once



remember, they now are not even printed in the state of Minnesota. They are printed in Des Moines, Iowa, and it's a dying media because they aren't writing to the people, literally. They call themselves the Minnesota Tribune, but you can call yourselves whatever you want. You're still writing to a very small group of people in Minneapolis, Minnesota. If you want to see the real Minnesota, go to the Secretary of State's website, the Minnesota Secretary of State, and look at the picture of Minnesota that shows you red and blue from the 2024 presidential election. What you will see is a sea of red across the state of Minnesota and a blue dot, a blue dot where Minneapolis and St. Paul are. And when you say the Somali vote is the power center for Tim Walz and Keith Ellison, I wouldn't call it very much power. What they are is they're the safety valve. What these guys have done, there's about 80,000-100,000 Somali in Minnesota. The largest group is in that Minneapolis area. This group helps Keith Ellison and Tim Walz get over the hurdle because neither one of them can get outstate votes. They can only get votes in the heart of that Twin Cities, that liberal area. And look, the last election, Keith Ellison won by less than a point. John, that vote is what got him the office. Tim Walz won with 52% against two guys that really never got it going. And he spent \$13 million to their \$1.7 million and he only got 52%. Again, the Somali vote in Minneapolis is what gets him over the hurdle. This is why these guys are, in my opinion, complicit. They either look the other way because they want the votes or they're complicit because—God bless Trump, he sent 10 members of his all-star cabinet are now coming down and scrutinizing Minnesota. I don't know if you saw Scott Turner, the secretary. He actually identified a half a million dollars in the last year of the Biden administration that went to over 500 dead people. You got Kelly Loeffler who's identified—Small Business Administration identified 7,900 loans that are likely fraudsters involving about \$400 million and the list goes on and on. Scott Bessent was here last week or the week before. And follow the money, man. They're talking about \$750 million in cash that came from Columbus, Ohio into Minneapolis-St. Paul International. Suitcases of cash from the Somali community in Columbus to the Somali community in Minneapolis, shipped to Dubai, and then it I believe it goes to Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups. We can follow the money. We can find where this goes. And it's high time that somebody does follow the money, does identify. And these guys, if they were part of it, John, gross negligence would be an understatement here when you're talking about \$9 billion. Somebody was on the take. Somebody knew what was going on. How high does it go? And this is exactly what the public is asking for. Doesn't matter if you're a Republican, Democrat, or other. They want their public officials held accountable when they cheat, steal, and lie.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

What a sad state of affairs. I mean, it really is just horrific what has gone on there. And our base is very frustrated that there's no accountability for the Democrats. You mentioned the governor getting led out and perp walked in handcuffs. Nobody sees this because nothing ever happens to the Democrats and it doesn't matter what they do. Meanwhile, our guys are going to jail. What they did to Peter Navarro dragging him out in leg irons. He goes to jail. The Clintons, nothing will happen to them. So there's a lot of frustration out there.

REP. TOM EMMER:

John, I was just—that's why I started smiling. I don't know. I don't think the Clintons expected the vote that came out of Jamie Comer's oversight committee yesterday. Do you realize there were more Democrats that voted to hold the Clintons in contempt for ignoring those subpoenas? There were more Democrats that voted for it than voted against it. This is pretty significant when you've got Democrats and Republicans supporting that contempt motion. I don't know. You know, they came and got Republicans who ignored subpoenas. I think the Clintons—first, I think the Clintons were shocked yesterday. Second, I think the Clinton's lawyers are going to be real busy over the next couple of weeks trying to negotiate with Jamie Comer and the oversight committee. I don't know. You may see federal authorities, much like we saw under the last administration wrongfully in my opinion, you may see them go out and collect a couple of former leaders. I mean maybe it's time that we lock



her up. Maybe finally.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

It could be. I mean, look, they've been screaming about Epstein files. Here's the guy that was involved with him. Let's hear what he has to say. And I think it was the manner that the Clintons dismissed this like the entitlement mentality like we're not going to comply with that. I mean, they just totally dismissed it without even a statement on it. I think that that is part of it. You've introduced a generational bill in Congress. You want to tell our audience about that, Tom?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah. It's called the SCAM Act. This is to expand and clarify the immigration and naturalization law here in the federal government. The current bar to denaturalize someone is very high, which it should be, but we're going to make it easier to denaturalize criminals, John—people who commit fraud, an aggravated felony, espionage, or people who join a terrorist group or are working with one like Al-Shabaab. It's called the SCAM Act, and it's not only going to hold Somali fraudsters in Minnesota accountable, but it's going to restore long overdue integrity to America's entire naturalization process. We've got three words that I use on a regular basis for anyone who comes to this country, becomes a citizen, and then engages in fraud, preying on the generosity of the great American people: send them home. And by the way, for your listeners who are asking, yeah, but what about marriage fraud? You know, I'm going to give you a hypothetical. What happens if some foreign immigrant who comes to this country marries a family member in order to help them circumvent your immigration laws? Will your SCAM Act cover that, Tom? It doesn't have to. Ladies and gentlemen, marriage fraud is already a basis to denaturalize someone. So if you married your brother and it can be proven that you violated our laws that way, your citizenship should be taken away and you should be sent back to Somalia.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

So what did she do? So some of our audience is just not familiar. So Ilhan Omar in order to get her citizenship allegedly she married her brother but now she's married to another guy. I think it was her chief of staff or something. So she's married to this other guy. So what did—did she have to go through a divorce proceeding for her brother? Like, how did this happen?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, the allegation involving Ms. Omar, and it's just an allegation. I haven't seen the actual paperwork, which is why I say if these people who allege it can establish that it's true, she should no longer be a citizen and she should be gone. But she came to this country as a 5-year-old. The country has done amazing things for her even though she seems to hate our country. The allegation is that at some point one of her siblings was in I think it was France and that there was a marriage or something to help that sibling then gain entry. Look, she was married to the father of her children at one point. Now she's married to her fundraiser. There's so many red flags on this gal. She reported a net worth of like \$65,000 just a few years ago. John, I understand recently she reported a net worth of \$30 million. How does that happen, John? I don't know the secret to that because I haven't had that great fortune in the last couple of years. And I don't know anybody else in Congress other than maybe Nancy Pelosi who has. It's called insider trading.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Oh, is that—that's what you do?

JOHN FREDERICKS:



That's how they go there. What was it? It was AOC when she first got to Congress in January, this is a true story, of 2019. She got elected in '18. There was a story she didn't have enough money to pay her rent or deposit. So she had to stay with somebody until she could pay rent in order to move into an apartment in Washington DC. That was in 2019. 2025, she's worth \$40 million. How'd that happen?

REP. TOM EMMER:

These guys are so fraudulent, John. I mean, it's like this Vandamme guy, right? The Marxists are the worst, right? They're the ones that they don't want for anything and they tell all of us that, you know, they're just like us, right? I think that's why Donald Trump is so successful because he celebrates his success and he tells us he's successful. He tells us if you want to be successful in this country, you can too. And I want to protect that. Vandamme, you know, he tells you, "Hey, look, I'm just like you. We can't afford anything. So I'm going to nationalize." He thinks he's the mayor of New York. He can just do this stuff with a stroke of a pen. I'm going to make all the housing public. I'm going to make all the grocery stores answer to me. I'm going to make public transit the only way that you can move around. I mean, they're all just fraudsters. And you know it's time that the American public—many of us have had it. We've had a great life, John. We are at a point in our country's history where the fraudsters have like taken over in many of these big cities. They talk about bad leadership. Okay, that's great. Why is it bad leadership? Because the fraudsters want them there. That's who they want leading these places because then they run wild and do whatever they want. Look at Minneapolis and St. Paul. I think the American public is waking up. I think Minnesota is waking up. Again, the pictures you're seeing are just an organized group of thugs that are led by paid agitators that are doing this for the cameras. The vast majority of Minnesotans I know, and this is not a political statement, this is reality. They want their kids safe, their community safe. They want to be able to just experience life and grow without worrying about all this garbage, this nonsense of the tension that is fomented by these failed left-wing politicians.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

When does your bill, the SCAM Act, go to markup and what committee is that coming out of?

REP. TOM EMMER:

You know, I believe it's going to the Judiciary Committee. So Jim Jordan's committee is where it's going to have to be vetted. We just filed it last week. I mean, I've been looking at this because obviously it's very personal to me in my state. I'm tired of seeing a gal who's one of the most racist, hateful anti-semites in America, Ilhan Omar, go on national TV and play the victim, literally on national TV, taunt President Trump, and say, "Well, we're citizens, so we're not going anywhere." I got news for you, Ilhan. We are going to make sure that if you violate our—if you take advantage of the generosity of Americans in America and you came here, you don't deserve to be here and you don't deserve to be a citizen. So we filed the bill last week. Now it'll follow through the process. We have I think close to 50 co-sponsors and that was just within a matter of days. This is an issue that I think Republicans and Democrats alike should favor. Look, coming to this country is not a—it's not your right. It is a gift. When you come to this country, you assimilate. We celebrate your culture. No question. You get to celebrate your culture and your tradition, but you assimilate. It's called a melting pot for a reason. You are an American citizen. You are not a Somali resident of Minnesota. That's not the way it works. This gal, she's such a—she's so crooked. She goes to the University of Minnesota campus after playing the race card and everything else. And she literally encourages violence on Jewish students and no media will report it and hold her accountable. So I guess we're going to have to—sad state of affairs.

JOHN FREDERICKS:



Tom Emmer, I'd love to have you on, but I just got a text from the great Sally Fox, your communications director, who by the way is a gem, saying that you've got to go. So other than that, I just—you know what? There's two texts I don't ignore. One is my wife Anne that runs the company. The other is from Sally Fox. So—

REP. TOM EMMER:

Wow, I get it. High praise if your wife is—

JOHN FREDERICKS:

She's at the top. She's at the top of the list. She's like, I love you, John, but we got to go. So that's a very nice text. Good way to put it, Sally. Right. Tough for me to keep him on. Tom, people want to follow you on social media. Where do they go?

JOHN FREDERICKS:

TomEmmer.com.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Who's your pick to win the Super Bowl?

JOHN FREDERICKS:

You know, that's a great—I think Seattle looks to me—the only problem is they got Sam Darnold, who I think is very talented, but you know, it's awful tough to play quarterback in a big game with both hands placed firmly around your throat, John. So we'll just have to wait and see how Sammy does under the big lights.

REP. TOM EMMER:

That's okay, Tom, as a Vikings fan. That's cold.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

It's cold, Tom, I got to tell you.

REP. TOM EMMER:

The brightest, the hottest.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

All right. How many—will the Twins play .500 ball?

REP. TOM EMMER:

The Twins are basically a AAA team right now. We're going to have to wait and see. I mean, hope springs eternal.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

The good news is there'll be no baseball in 2027. So they'll have a whole 12-month cycle to rebuild and develop their young players. Probably the best thing that's going to happen for the Twins because that strike is—you can't go on without a salary cap. It just can't go on.

REP. TOM EMMER:



You're right. You can't have LA and New York and Philadelphia being the only teams that can compete in this thing. You got to have the middle of the country and you got to have small markets like Minnesota and Cleveland and St. Louis. All of them need to compete. And I know Bryce Harper doesn't like to hear that. I know that he's like, you know, keep your hands off my money. I get it. But you know what? The customers are the ones, Bryce, that actually pay for those salaries.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, it's destroying the game. It's got to go. Final thing, you have to go. Are the Wild going to make the playoffs?

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Oh, they're going to make the playoffs. The real question is they've got goaltending that can take them to the Stanley Cup, but you look at teams like Dallas, the sneaky good team that I don't think has goaltending to get all the way through to the end, but I think they're going to surprise some people, believe it or not, are the Montreal Canadiens. Right now, they've got this young core that I've been watching for the last couple of months. I don't know if they get on a roll. And look, Edmonton's been there two years in a row. When you got Connor McDavid—that by the way, when I say goaltending, look, that's been the Achilles heel of the Edmonton Oilers, John. Every time they get to the final they're so close but you got to have that goaltender that just rises to the occasion. There's a reason why New Jersey won all those games with Martin Brodeur. There's a reason why these teams win and that's that goaltender. And those guys, there's something wrong with them. I mean, who wants to stand in front of what? A 3-inch in diameter piece of vulcanized rubber that's traveling at 100 miles an hour at your head. Who wants to do that? It's insane.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

All right. Did you see the goalie fight the other day?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Where the—huh? You saw it?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I did.

REP. TOM EMMER:

I got to tell you, John, I played with a guy who—a goalie that loved to fight. Why? Because he would throw his catching mitt off. He'd leave that waffle on and he would grab the jersey and my goodness, you better have a mask on because he's hitting you with that waffle in the head. The goalies again, they're insane.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Yeah, Bobrovsky skated the entire length of the rink to get in a couple of licks. It was classic. Tom, thank you. We'll be—I like the Wild. I think they have a good young core and you're right, you have to—the goalie in the Stanley Cup's got to rise to the occasion. Edmonton just hasn't had that.



REP. TOM EMMER:

No.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

But look, the new—the New Jersey Devils goalie is now their coach. Only goalie ever to be a coach.

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