



## Rep. Tom Emmer on The Record with Greta Van Susteren

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### **GRETA:**

House Financial Services Committee and House Majority Whip, Minnesota Congressman Tom Emmer joins me. Good evening, sir.

### **REP. TOM EMMER:**

Good to be with you, Greta.

### **GRETA:**

Boy, it seems like we're scrambling to find out where the money is. It's like we're looking in every nook and cranny, and this June 1st, it's a little soft deadline, I guess we're not sure it's June 1st, is descending upon us. So tell me, when Speaker McCarthy and the other leaders go to the White House to meet with the president next week, what do you expect is going to happen?

### **REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, I'm sure Speaker McCarthy is going to listen to whatever they have to offer, but bottom line, Greta, is Speaker McCarthy asked for the good of the country, asked the president to sit down and negotiate when they first talked back in January. The president, as I understand, suggested he was willing to do that and then never came to the table. Our speaker had another chance to mention it to the president on St. Pat's Day at an event, and again, there was no response. So our speaker then sent a letter, I believe, before the end of March, outlining what he as the leader and his members would like to set as parameters to try and jumpstart the negotiations. And quite frankly, Greta, much like everything else we've seen so far in this new Congress, there's no ideas coming out of the White House, there's no solutions, let alone activity coming out of the Senate. I think the biggest thing the Senate has done since the beginning of the year is declare March a maple syrup month. So Kevin McCarthy and the House Republicans did what we've been doing since the beginning of the year, which is we let again, Kevin McCarthy and House Republicans passed a debt ceiling solution last week. It's sitting over in the Senate and look, if they don't have any ideas coming from Joe Biden's White House or from Chuck Schumer's Senate, it's time to take the Republican bill up and pass it.

### **GRETA:**

You know, it's been since 2001, it's 22 years since we've had a surplus where we have more money coming in from tax receipts than we have going out. And now we've got all these trillions and trillions of dollars of debt. We've had Republican administrations, Democratic administrations, I mean, our government really in many ways I think is broken, has failed us, all the stewards, because if we ran our households like this, we'd be in deep trouble. So I mean, what should an American citizen think?

### **REP. TOM EMMER:**



Well, they should recognize that you're absolutely right, Greta. This is no way to run a government because no one would run their household like this. No one would run their business like this. You correctly point out that government tax receipts have never been higher. They're record numbers, but I will point out it's not more than we have going out. For every record dollar this government is collecting right now, Greta, we're spending a \$1.29. And people need to understand that sadly, the only real fiscal reforms that we've had in the last 30 years have come as the result of debt ceiling negotiations. So again, Republicans in the House have passed the debt ceiling solution, incredibly reasonable proposal which will put this country back on a path towards financial success. It's just the first step of several that we need to take. If the president and Chuck Schumer's Senate don't like it, then hopefully next Monday when they sit down with our speaker, they'll suggest what they don't like and what they'd like to see. And I'll leave it to our speaker to determine whether they're sincere about negotiating something. Regardless, we cannot default on our debt.

**GRETA:**

It's always crisis management, though. Always with the budget. I mean, even with the border, it's crisis management. We all know that we have these problems. We know the budget's going to come due. We know this stuff. But it gets pushed up and they put us through so much drama. It rocks the markets that, you know, to me, you know, if I did my job that way, I wouldn't have a job.

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, it's crisis management from an incompetent White House and an inactive Senate. The House Republicans led by Kevin McCarthy have been leading for four months. There's been no crises in the House. We passed things like overturning the crime, the criminal friendly D.C. crime bill. We passed the parental bill of rights. We passed H.R. 1, which was an above all energy strategy to restore energy independence and try to bring prices back down in this country. And now we, with Kevin McCarthy's leadership, have passed a solution to the debt crisis. By the way, Greta, well in advance of the crisis that may or may not be at the beginning of June. So I agree with you that there's lack of leadership coming from the top, not from the House and Kevin McCarthy.

**GRETA:**

Congressman Tom Emmer, thank you very much. Hope you join me again. Thank you, sir.

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Happy to do it, Greta.

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