



## Rep. Tom Emmer on THE SQUAWK BOX

**CNBC**

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**\*\*HOST:**

\*\* Meanwhile, the shutdown has ended, but another one could be right around the corner. Joining us now, House Majority Whip Tom Emmer. And what's the definition of insanity, Majority Whip Emmer? Just doing the same thing again and again and expecting a different outcome. January will come. Is this going to happen again, what we just saw?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* It shouldn't. And by the way, great to be with you this morning. After 43 days of a ridiculous shutdown, I think it's very clear whether it's coming from President Trump or it's coming from people in Congress. With the exception of a few on the far left, this should never happen again. We've got three appropriations bills done, as you know, out of the 12. They were passed with the government extension a couple days ago. There are three to six that are ready to be closed up. My hope is that they can close all 12 before the end of December, Joe.

**\*\*JOE:**

\*\* The original pandemic era subsidies got zero Republican votes. Why is there? Was there any reason to think they'd get any this time and to shut the government down? Why is there any reason to think if this is put to a vote that it will pass because it's not going to. And they're going to be enraged. You're going to see Hakeem Jeffries doing. I don't know what you'll say. I don't know what Chuck might be hiding somewhere. But Hakeem Jeffries is going to be going bonkers, as are a lot of a lot of Democrats in the House.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I don't know what they're going to be going bonkers about it because it's not going to pass. Literally, they broke health care in this country with something called the Affordable Care Act. Since the Affordable Care Act was passed with only Democrat votes, the cost of health care for the average family in this country has gone up almost 100 percent. And now they think just throwing more money at insurance company companies is going to somehow address that problem. It's time to actually reform the system, Joe. So these enhanced premium tax credits, as you point out, were created during covid. They were temporary. It was for the extraordinary circumstances created by covid. The Democrats passed them, set them up to expire at the end of this year. They claim this is what the issue is about. But Joe, premiums are going up on average health insurance premiums 30 percent this year. And guess what? You pass these even for a year. You know how much of it that that will attack? About five percent of that 30.

**\*\*JOE:**

\*\* I guess it is a structural proponents would say, Congressman, that the uninsured people in the United States went from 19 percent uninsured to eight percent uninsured, whatever it is, through Obamacare. It's almost as if they're saying as expensive and unwieldy and flawed as it is, at least it brought a lot of people health care that they're able to have. And I don't know if it's a basic human right, but we'd like to have everyone



insured because it also costs us money when they're not insured. And that, according to what did Bertolini say yesterday, ten billion dollars a year in Israel is what's saved. One year extension of these subsidies is 40 billion. So 10 billion is a drop in the bucket.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I think we need to make it affordable. Everybody needs to be able to have access to health care in Minnesota before the Affordable Care Act. Minnesota had 94 percent of our citizens covered under some form of insurance. And by the way, it'd be closer to 97 if a certain group access the programs that were available to them since the Affordable Care Act's been passed. Great. They're going to use statistics to say that we got more people across the country insured, but they're getting less for the insurance. Joe, yeah, it's not about the insurers. The insurers are getting checks directly and they're fat and happy. The health insurers. It's about the American people. It's time you put some transparency, some competition, some choice back into a real marketplace.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* Can I ask you just a different affordability question? And we're going to talk to James Greer in just a little bit about tariffs. So one of the things that the administration seems to be doing is trying to work out some new deals on tariffs to lower the price of things like bananas, coffee and other things. Wouldn't you suggest in terms of affordability, that is actually the an issue that tariffs made it less affordable for Americans?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Absolutely. Andrew, while I appreciate the way you your perspective on the question, the fact is, it was Democrats under Joe Biden who pumped two trillion dollars in the economy with something called the American Rescue Plan, which economists have called the original sin. They threw the economy into the ditch because of that double digit inflation like we hadn't seen in 40 years. Donald Trump inherited this broken economy. He's been fixing it.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* I'll tell you what, the question is whether you think the question is whether you think the tariffs are helping it. I think he has been winning on the tariffs, without a doubt. Winning in terms of the price for Americans, that they're paying for goods.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Donald Trump and his administration has driven down costs on groceries, gas is at a five year low, Andrew. And why are we making new deals with, why are we making new deals on coffee and bananas and other things? Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt, but it's not a one way street. This is about giving our producers access to markets that they have been denied over the years. This is about fairness. This is about putting Americans first. I think Donald Trump has been negotiating better than any president in our history in terms of trying to make sure that Americans not only have the things that they want and they can afford them, but that we have access to other markets.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* When Speaker Johnson said for Republicans to get on board with these enhanced subsidies, he said there'd be a lot of things that they would ask for in terms of reforms for Obamacare. You know what he's thinking? Is there any way that this, that this is a, that they get a year extension at this point? Are there enough things that



they could do to induce Republicans to pass that? Or are we going to have to wait for Congress to change?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* So as the whip, you just pointed out, the speaker was giving you those answers. The speaker will make that call, he'll, he'll decide what we're going to do. My job is to work with our members to get things passed when that call is made.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* It's not an actual whip. Not an actual whip? Yeah. You don't, you don't have an actual whip.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, actually there is one on the wall of the office, but no, we don't use it.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* Will there be, in your view, another reconciliation though, because the Republicans haven't really been able to do anything since the first one, right? There was a lot in there.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Oh, that's not true. I think we've done plenty and we were well on our way to getting back to a regular order appropriations process when we gave the Democrats a clean CR on September 21st, well in advance of the September 30th funding deadline, and they blew 43 days. So now we're trying to get back to that and I think that'll be the number one thing. If you, if people can talk about reconciliation all they want, I think the goal right now of this Congress with this administration is to finish the appropriations process so that we have a full year funding and we can get onto permitting reform. We can get onto financial services, healthcare reform, the things that the American people have hired us to do.

**\*\*JOE:**

\*\* And the prospects for keeping the house?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* I think we're going to hold the house. I do. And mechanically, the numbers are way that are with us. There are 11 Democrats sitting in seats that Donald Trump won right now. There are three Republicans. The mechanics of seats that are available for Republican, Republican candidates and a Republican message are much greater than the other side. And Joe, the other side, what are they going to run on? They don't have a leader. They don't have a message. All they have is we hate Trump. You should too. That's not a winning message. That's why Republicans are going to hold the house next fall.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* Just one question about sort of the control of the House, Senate and the White House on the Republican end. So if you look at what's happening, for example, the SEC in a couple of weeks, there will be no Democratic commissioners on that SEC at all. Right. That one of them stepping down. That's that'll be that. And it's unclear, given this situation, whether there ever will be. And I wonder whether maybe you say the practical reality is doesn't matter to have that if it's going to ultimately be controlled by Republicans anyway. But what do you think that there's value in having, for example, a Democratic commissioner on the SEC, even as a check or as a somebody just in the room with another perspective? I'm just curious how because this is true, not just by



the way the SEC about to be the SEC, but of a whole number of other agencies.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Wow. And here, first off to your question, I think it's always great to have different voices in the room having discussions about what they believe, why they would do something, why they wouldn't do something. That's literally what we do within the Republican conference. But the problem that this administration is trying to deal with is a serious one. The SEC was a complete it was a what ideological fiefdom of Gary Gensler for the last four years that literally was attacking people who are trying to create new opportunities in this country. I have no issue with the White House coming in with a mandate from the people and saying we're going to restore these agencies to the spot where they are working for people, not for their political ideology, creating more opportunities with the greatest capital markets.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* What does that mean in terms of also having having different political parties on on the commission? Different political perspectives is a different. You don't know what the political parties are now. You just had a Marxist, communist, socialist, whatever you want to call them, elected here in the city of New York. I don't know what that means. I know that different perspectives are always very healthy, and I'm sure that's where this will go, because you're going to have to have a different but just so we're clear, you're talking about different perspectives within the Republican Party, not different perspectives of different parties.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* No, I told you that within our conference, we have that same type of interaction. But I think all people from all walks, even even your mayor, we should sit down with your mayor and we should talk to your mayor and find out really what are your economic policies? What is it that we could actually work together on? Right now, I don't know what it is.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* You know, you're from Minnesota. You really shouldn't be talking about what other places do and who they elect. Not for nothing. I don't even think you voted for Reagan. Did you?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* I did.

**\*\*ANDREW:**

\*\* No. We're the only state. How's that governor? How's that governor doing?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* You know, he is the most incompetent. His administration. Oh, I didn't want to open up the billion dollars for me to get you started. It's something Minnesotans have to deal with every day. We all have to deal with it somehow, majority of the time ever. Thank you.



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