



Rep. Tom Emmer on What's On Your Mind – January 21, 2026

Radio

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SCOTT:

Pleased to be joined right now by the whip in the United States House, number three Republican, a warrior of warriors from Minnesota getting it done, Tom Emmer. Congressman Emmer, welcome back to the show. How are you?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I'm doing great, Scott. Happy New Year to you. Happy St. Agnes Day.

SCOTT:

Is it really? I should know that. I wasn't at mass this morning, but you probably were, so that's how you know.

REP. TOM EMMER:

St. Agnes' feast day. That's my That's my mother-in-law's name. Rest her soul. There you go.

SCOTT:

So, um, before we get into kind of the craziness of Minnesota, and you've been so good on this to, uh, expose the insanity there, I just want to have you look back a year. We talked yesterday a lot about, uh, uh, one year since the inaugural and, uh, what President Trump has gotten done. Uh, I think the, um, the work of Congress, especially in the one big beautiful bill and all of the things that will derive from that, uh, aren't necessarily front and center for folks. They they you know they're always thinking more could be done and and want more things done. But what should we know? What should we celebrate in what is gotten across the finish line with a very tight majority in the House?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I I I appreciate you bringing that up, Scott, because the one-year anniversary of Donald Trump's inauguration was yesterday, and if you watch the lamestream media, as some of my friends call it, the national mainstream media, you'd think that it was the worst year we've ever had. My god. I mean, what Donald Trump has accomplished in one year, Joe Biden couldn't accomplish in 50 years of of public service. And in fact, he and his cronies damn near destroyed our economy in the four years that they they interrupted Donald Trump's service. What did we do? You see eggs are down like 90% since Trump took office. You remember that was a big deal during the campaign more than a year ago. Gas prices are at a 5-year low. Mortgage rates are starting to come down. I mean, the list just goes on and on. Get ready cuz now the bill that was signed into law last July, Scott, that took effect on January 1st. The families that are in North Dakota, Minnesota, up in your neck of the woods, that our entire region, the Dakotas in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, guess what? They're going to see on average \$4,000 in their tax returns. Their wages are going to go up. According to what we've seen, it's going to



be about \$10,000 on average. Think about that, Scott. That's a \$15,000 swing now. And and they're going to start feeling it with no taxes on overtime, no taxes on tips. You got seniors who got a \$6,000 credit on their Social Security benefits. Scott, that's going to affect over \$55 million seniors in this country, and a lot of them are in our our respective states. So, uh, this is just starting to move. And I I'll put a bow on it with this. The Congressional Budget Office, which claims to be nonpartisan, I would disagree with that. I think they are a swamp creature that is uglier than most swamp creatures. they projected if that bill the working families tax cut act, the big beautiful bill were signed into law that our that our country would see an average GDP growth, annual growth of 1.8%. Scott, when they put that projection out, most of us were commenting about the fact this country has never had less than 2% growth. So, how is that possible? But guess what? Anybody listening to this program can look in the third quarter of last year, before the big beautiful bill even became law, which just happened earlier this month, before it became law, our GDP went up to 4.3%. And despite the record government shutdown that was forced upon the American people by Democrats and Democrats alone, 40-some days they shut the federal government down. Guess what, Scott? They're telling us that the that the GDP, the growth for the fourth quarter of last year is going to be over 5%. I'm telling you, Donald Trump a year ago said, "This is the golden age of America, and we are just getting started."

SCOTT:

Yeah. Scott Besson, as I know you know, out in the Twin Cities, recently we talked to him about that. He's talking about that 5% number, too. He's talking about deficit reduction, which is not being talked about. you get to 5% growth, what's possible? What does that do? Why should the American people care about a 5% growth rate?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, those of us that are old enough to remember we came out of the Carter years back in the late '7s where I then President Carter was telling people like you and me, Scott, get used to it. This is a new normal. You know, Americans have had it too good for too long. And then we had a guy that's probably the predecessor to Donald Trump in Ronald Reagan who came in and said, "No, no, America is exceptional and America needs to perform at an exceptional exceptional level because if if we do it lifts all boats and that's exactly what we saw happen you remember we had 25 years which economists call the boom economy. with the largest growth of wealth in world history. So you're asking me, I think you're seeing what Donald Trump and Republicans have set up in Washington is the beginning of the next great boom economy that our our generation and generations to come are going to benefit off of because you know what? You're going to be balancing a federal budget. You're going to be paying off \$ 37 trillion in debt and you're going to be making sure that the men and women who serve in uniform, whether they're your local law enforcement, your federal law enforcement, or the men and women in our our service branches, that they are actually being taken care of since they take care of us. I the future's really bright, Scott. We do have some some hiccups though that we got to deal with and the president's trying to do that right now. One of the main ones I'm going to argue is our ag community, right? We we have some serious stress going on in our ag community. This is not just a recent occurrence. This has been happening over a number of years. And I think everybody in this Republican Congress and the president are committed to making sure that we get it right because ultimately a a country that can't feed itself can't be a country. So, we not only feed ourselves, Scott, as you know, but we feed the the world. Our producers do. And up in that northwest corner of Minnesota, northeast or I should say eastern border of North Dakota, sugar beats are a big deal, Scott. And we got to make sure we're helping our sugar beat farmers get through this tight time and stop Brazil from dumping in this country once and for all.

SCOTT:



Yeah, they do the same with um with double cropping with corn. So there's, you know, they're an ethanol competitor. No doubt about it. Brazil is a is a is a a fierce competitor that we need to take on. If you have to pick one thing on the egg side with cost of production where it's at, price is low, and as you say, this year after year after year, we're good four or five years into this where the debt just keeps piling up. What would you do? What would your ask be of Secretary Rollins or the president on the egg side?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I I think it's the long-term thing. Mine mine has been from the beginning because the obviously one of the two pri two two primary drivers of my state's private economy is a Scott and my my farmers and those involved in the egg industry what they say to me on a regular basis is don't just send us checks yet. We need long-term solutions. If that means reforming programs, if that means changing programs, thinking out of the box, we need you to do that in the short term. I I nobody is I this is not what they want, but this is what the they need. There are there's bridge money out there, right? The trillions that the country is bringing in on tariffs, which a lot of our producers are holding their nose and saying, you know what, no one else has ever fought to get us access to markets that have locked us out for decades. we're going to stand by Donald Trump while he tries to open up these markets. In the meantime, it's causing more pressure on our producers and our processors. So, these brid the bridge money that we're talking about is just that. It's bridge money. we've got a year round E15 that people are working feverishly to try and get done. If it doesn't get done in this bill this week, in fact, get it done this year. It's got to happen. The the ag community needs more options. All they want to do is compete. Scott, all they want to do is compete. So, I can't give you a one thing because with our ag producers, it's more complicated that it's more diverse. We got to make sure that we not only get them access to all these markets around the world, especially the ones that have denied them access for various reasons, but we've also got to stop their competitors from having an advantage coming into this country and taking advant. That's not an America first policy.

SCOTT:

Short break, come back with Tom Emmer and talk a little bit about the madness in Minnesota. his cross-examination of Tim Walz was unbelievable and we know a lot more even since then in the way of inciting this awful assault on ICE officers in Minnesota. We'll talk to Tom about that and the midterms as well. very important to keep the Trump train roll in the election in November. More after this.

SCOTT:

It's hard to overstate the level of competence that has come from the Walz administration, from the Minneapolis mayor and council, Minneapolis Police Department, an attorney general who is, you know, having secret meetings with people talking about you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. I know as a representative in the United States Congress of Minnesota, this has to be painful. You've done your part. There's federal investigations, there's congressional investigations, there's state investigations. , is this movie going to end anytime soon? TOM (co-host): Okay, Tom.

SCOTT:

Yeah. Love from love from Jacob.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I tell you what, I'd love it if it ended quickly. I I love my state, , Scott, as you know, and I it's just very painful to not only see all the incompetence and I think complicit, , behavior that caused 9 billion, they estimate and fraud, but now this ridiculous, nonsense in in the Twin Cities proper, primarily in, in Minneapolis. , first off, the



mayor of Minneapolis is a nonfactor. this child of a man who likes to drop profanity to try and make himself look big and tough is not Gavin Newsom. No matter how hard he tries, he is not relevant. his police chief, Brian O'Hara, and I hope he's listening to this. Brian O'Hara could have prevented the the unfortunate incident where someone was encouraged to use their vehicle to attack a federal law enforcement agent and ended up losing their life because they tried to use deadly force and they got deadly force in return. That never would have happened if Brian O'Hara had done what the local police are supposed to do when they work with ICE, which is provide the perimeter support. He refused. He either refused on his own, in which case he should he should resign, or he refused to provide that support because of those he answers to, whether it be Keith Ellison or Tim Walz or whomever it might be. Either way, it shows he's not in control and he should no longer be the chief of police for the city of Minneapolis. I was telling you guys off air, this is how this ends. This is not about going to the federal government. The federal government is going to do the job it's supposed to do. I I got news for Tim Walz. You are not Jefferson Davis. You are not there to start a a confederacy of Minnesota fighting against the federal law enforcement because of your hatred of Donald Trump. This is literally about getting the worst of the worst off our streets. It ends the second that they allow local law enforcement to work cooperatively with federal law enforcement so that the locals, they can actually enter into an agreement where the locals can go out and pick up the worst of the worst. They know who they are. they can retrieve them, bring them back, hold them in their jails till a federal law enforcement officer arrives and takes them and ultimately they face justice and/or they're deported. So this could end tomorrow. Unfortunately, this the left-wing media in the Twin Cities and I would argue nationally, they want to take the photographs of these paid agitators these they want to photograph these people that are definitely an organized almost conspiratorial group that do not reflect the majority of our state. In fact, they are just a sliver of our state. and right now, unfortunately, they're the show. And this idea that they can go into a church while people are are practicing their faith and and Keith Ellison somehow thinks that's protected under the First Amendment. I mean, this this guy is crooked. I I just I believe he's the guy pulling the strings. Tim Walz is not a smart man. He's proven that over and over. I although that doesn't change my mind about complicity. You don't let billions go out of your administration over a 7-year period without someone being complicit.

SCOTT:

When you talk about a way out and cooperation between local law enforcement and the and the feds, could the sheriff's be the adult in the room? I mean, you don't hold much hope Minneapolis police would. So, and is there anything being discussed about that?

REP. TOM EMMER:

It it actually is the county sheriff. So, what what's supposed to happen in practice? My understanding is when the immigration enforcement officers, the federal law enforcement is going to come in and retrieve one of these bad guys, the local police department, in this case it was Minneapolis, is supposed to provide the perimeter. They they protect the perimeter to allow the federal law enforcement to do their job. the sheriffs in our state can reach agreements with the federal law enforcement agency to literally do their job. which makes a lot of sense because they encounter these people in their everyday patrols and their you know while they're doing their jobs and then they can take him into custody. What people don't know and what is not being reported in Minnesota is a few years back Keith Ellison and Tim Walz made it clear to every county sheriff that you are not allowed to work with ICE. You cannot hold anyone in your jail. If you do, guess what? You're you're going to be sued. And right now, I I can tell you my sheriff down in Carver County is being sued for doing exactly that. This is what has to end. the the idea I I'm gonna maybe go out on a limb, but every sheriff I've talked to, including perhaps sheriffs that have St. Paul, Minnesota and Hennepin County, Minnesota within their jurisdiction, they want to do this job, but they can't because Keith Ellison and Tim Walz won't let them do the job. And and Scott, you should



know this is the other problem that we run into. My local sheriff was telling me months ago, you know, the problem is they'll pick somebody up. They'll be processing them. They'll call the Immigration Enforcement Office, which is in the Twin Cities, but it's under manned and it's responsible for Minnesota and the Dakotas. And he tells me that, all right, well, I I ask him how long before somebody can be here to get this guy, this rapist, this murderer, this child predator. And when he's told, well, we got an officer up in Fargo. he can be there in 4 and 1/2 hours. Guess what, Scott? They got to let him go. And they let him go, but they know where he goes. So when the federal law enforcement arrives, they go to get the worst of the worst. And guess what? Sometimes they run into other people that may not be the worst of the worst, but are not here le legally. And unfortunately, at that point, they have to do their job. So it's creating all kinds of problems. Right now, the tension though, I'm telling you, if they would reach an understanding just between the law enforcement agencies, it does not have to involve the leaders. It's already in the law. And if we can do that, everything settles down quickly.

SCOTT:

Do you expect criminal charges on what's happened to this point on Walz and Frey and Ellison?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, again, I the the Trump US attorney Dan Rosen is about to commence a grand jury. And as I was telling you earlier, Scott, off air, the way that you uncover public corruption, public official corruption specifically, is behind closed doors in a grand jury when you can get these hundreds of whistleblowers to come in under oath and give their testimony without fear of retribution outside the outside the room. that's the way that you will get the evidence that you need. And I'm going to go based on one that grand jury is going to happen. Those whistleblowers are going to come forward. And then I'll use the legislator's testimony in front of my friend Jamie Comer's oversight committee a couple weeks ago where all three of them, Walter Hudson, Marian Raric, and Kristen Robbins all said there is no doubt in their mind that Tim Walz was aware of the fraud when it was happening. that he was warned by whistleblowers, that he not only ignored those whistleblowers, but he retaliated against him. If that's true, he should go to jail.

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