



Rep. Tom Emmer on BALANCE OF POWER – 2025

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****HOST:**

** House Majority Whip, Congressman Tom Emmer. Republican from Minnesota. Congressman, it's great to see you. Welcome back to Bloomberg. Is the President right about talking with Democrats?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Actually, the President is the chief negotiator, and thanks for having me. The one thing that we're all united on, though, is that you gotta reopen the government in order to be doing anything with whatever the topic may be. When it comes to healthcare, Donald Trump has been a leader in this area. He wants to make sure that these programs, that the integrity is maintained for the people that they're intended for. Democrats, obviously, wanna put illegals back on taxpayer-funded healthcare. That's a non-starter for the President. You gotta reopen the government and then have those negotiations.

****HOST:**

** Just to have a sense of what's going on, though, and we've talked to a couple of senators, congressmen, about their very informal conversations, some of which are happening just right there on the Senate floor. Is that what the President is referring to, or is the leadership engaged on both sides of the aisle?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Now, literally, the negotiations that took place in the House took place in September. In September, it was negotiated that we would have a seven-week clean CR, no partisan riders, nothing in it, that would cause someone a problem, just current funding levels until November 21st so we can start to get back to a regular order appropriations process. After that negotiation was done, the House did its job, sent that clean CR over to the Senate in plenty of time. I think we sent it over on September 21st in plenty of time for the September 30th at midnight deadline. Chuck Schumer then decided, with his Democrat colleagues in the Senate, because they've gotta give us seven votes at least in order to make cloture so you can get the bill to the floor, decided they weren't gonna pass it because they want another 1.5 trillion in additional spending. They wanna put illegals back on taxpayer-funded healthcare. They wanna gut the \$50 billion rural health fund that Republicans created in the Working Families Tax Cut Act back in July. Again, these are non-starters. There's no negotiation taking place in the Senate. If senators are having conversations amongst themselves, I suspect the conversations are, you gotta reopen the government, you gotta do it right away before you hurt a lot of people.

****HOST:**

** Okay, so it sounds like those conversations are not happening on the House side. It's an interesting situation that we're in, though, with these votes taking place day after day. Are you working on Democratic senators yourself? Is the White House lobbying Democrats? Because one of these votes, I mean, you just said it, you'd only need a handful of Democrats to get this passed. How does this end, Congressman?



****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, it ends when Chuck Schumer and the Democrats come to their senses. I mean, in my state, if you continue this, there's 100,000 women, infants, and children that are gonna be harmed when the WIC program runs out of money. There's 13,000 National Guardsmen that won't get paid on the 15th. There's another 30-some thousand, 33,000 federal workers that aren't gonna get paid. It ends when Chuck Schumer and Democrats in the Senate say, we gotta reopen the government, and let's get back to the table where Republicans and Democrats were before Chuck Schumer shut this thing down, and let's get this done. Let's get a long-term funding bill done.

****HOST:**

** Definitely understand your point on that. If the President is talking about a deal here, though, on healthcare, he says some very good things could happen with respect to healthcare. Your point is that it's only after the government is reopened.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** I think we're all united on that. I mean, it's a very simple process. Again, a nonpartisan CR, something that Chuck Schumer was in favor of just six months ago, and forget that for a second. It's something that Chuck Schumer and Senate Democrats voted for 13 times under the Biden administration. The only thing that's changed right now, the only thing that's changed right now is Donald Trump is in the White House. That's the only thing that has changed. Again, the House did its job. Now it's up to Chuck Schumer to reopen the government. Think about it. We've got a conference committee that both the House and the Senate voted on last month with Republicans and Democrats working on the first three appropriations bills that they're almost done with so they can move on to the next group of appropriations bills. We haven't had a conference committee, a formal conference committee, since 2018. There are good things that are happening under Donald Trump here. Chuck Schumer's gotta just get out of the way and let us continue these negotiations.

****HOST:**

** Well, we've got our eyes on the Senate floor as you're speaking, Congressman, and I know that this vote that's about to happen is expected to fail, and so the White House says if that's the case, it could be as soon as this evening we get the RIFs, the reduction in force announcements, layoffs that could turn furloughs into permanent departures for government employees, and I know that's not just here in Washington but potentially federal workers around the country. Is that something that needs to happen? Is that how you finish the work of the DOJ?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Actually, it's had nothing to do with DOJ. This has to do with Chuck Schumer and Senate Democrats shutting down our government.

****HOST:**

** I know you're upset with Chuck Schumer, but are layoffs coming, Congressman? Let's be clear.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, I think you've been very clear. I'm just wondering if you're gonna see layoffs if federal workers. If you'll let me finish, if you'll let me finish, my point is Chuck Schumer and the Democrats shut it down. Now the administration is gonna have to make some very difficult choices if they're not willing to reopen the government.



Unfortunately, that has to do with workforce and everything else, and God forbid that they don't come to their senses and people get even more hurt. We've already lost \$400 million a day because of Chuck Schumer and these Democrats, and quite frankly, if they continue with this charade, they're the ones that are gonna own it. They already do.

****HOST:**

** If we do see the federal layoffs, does it make it harder to reopen the government? Does that poison the well?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, we've got National Guardsmen, we've got TSA, we've got our military service men and women. Hopefully, Chuck Schumer will put those people and Americans before his own political whim, which is trying to protect himself from some potential primary in the next election from his favorite House member, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. So let's put the American people first, Chuck. I am sure that there are senators, Democrat senators, that are going to come to their senses and reopen this thing so we can get back to doing the work of the people.

****HOST:**

** But if that's the case, you don't need to worry about Chuck Schumer, right? I know the White House is appealing, in some cases, directly to Democrats, in many cases, retiring Democrats or those who are serving in more moderate zones than Chuck Schumer. What would happen first? You do this for a living, you count votes for a living. Can you peel off a couple of Democrats in the Senate or does there need to be some other deal?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** I think I'll start where you did. I don't think we do have to worry about Chuck Schumer. I think Chuck has passed his useful life when it comes to leading. It's clear that he's lost a step, that he's more concerned with his own political survival than he is with this country. I think you'll see new leadership in the Senate at some point soon. And yes, I do think there are Democrat senators who realize this is ridiculous, this is foolish, this is not a place you wanna be, trying to reopen the government in return for 1.5 trillion in new spending and putting illegals back on taxpayer-funded healthcare. These are not winning arguments for Democrats. And so yes, I do believe there are several Democrat senators who will ultimately reopen the government.

****HOST:**

** Okay, well, there you go. Sounds like we might be making progress here. I guess lastly, will it take the hand of the president and the threat of layoffs to do that because the cries of the Schumer shutdown don't seem to be changing any minds?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, actually, they should just be listening to our servicemen and women, the TSA agents, the federal contractors, the federal employees. The administration's gonna have to make whatever difficult choices have to be made as a direct result of Chuck Schumer and Senate Democrats right now refusal to reopen the government. They're the ones that own this. They're the ones that can end this. Let's hope they do it tonight.

****HOST:**

** Republican Congressman Tom Emmer, it's great to have you back with us of Minnesota. That's the House Majority Whip on Bloomberg TV.



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