



Rep. Tom Emmer on JOHN FREDERICKS RADIO SHOW – 2025

JOHN FREDERICKS MEDIA NETWORK

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JOHN FREDERICKS:

Morgan got a treat for you today. Joining me now is our good friend from Minnesota, House Majority Whip, Tom Emmer. Tom, great to have you with us, Mr. Minority Whip. You're on with John Fredericks on our bus tour and the one and only Morgan Griffith, your colleague in the House. Great to have you, Tom.

REP. TOM EMMER:

It's great to see you, John Fredericks, and you've got one of my favorite colleagues, one of the smartest, most effective members of Congress, Morgan Griffith, with you. It's good to see you again this morning, Morgan.

MORGAN GRIFFITH:

Good to see you, Tom.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

So we were just talking, Tom, before we get into the shutdown and the auto pen that your colleague, James Comer, is now going to investigate. We were talking about Barack Obama, and he's the only president that never left Washington, ever. In fact, Anne and I had dinner and had the opportunity to interview the EU ambassador to the United States. So we went to her residence, which is in that section there, and she said, hey, you guys probably don't know, but living next to me, I live next to Barack Obama. So we walked out there and she showed us a huge home and a mansion. And so he's still there. Why is he there? Why didn't he go off to, I don't know, Martha's Vineyard or Hawaii or something? He's still in the United States. Who's Chicago? I'm out of Chicago.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, nobody wants to go to Chicago. That's one of the issues.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

So Tom Emmer with us with Morgan Griffith. So yesterday, James Comer, one of your colleagues, head of that oversight committee, says he's gonna do a full investigation on this auto pen. And now they have new evidence coming out that Joe Biden, his mental capacity was worse than was reported. What are you guys doing with this? What's the plan?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, first off, this is more evidence of the corruption of the mainstream media, John. Morgan and I could have told you this guy had major problems in the first 12 months that he was in office. I mean, we literally saw him in the halls at times with people leading him where he needed to go and trying to help him get to where he needed



to go. Kevin McCarthy, when he was speaker, came back and told us that if he couldn't read his notes, he lost where he was. So we've known this for a long time. What we're finding out now is just downright scary. Literally, this country was governed by an auto pen for the better part of four years. Who was running that pen, John? We live in an elected representative government, not faceless bureaucrats who already take advantage of us with the rulemaking process through these federal agencies, but this was the president of the United States. Someone or a group of people, presumably, these woke lefties that occupied the Biden White House were in charge of that auto pen. Frankly, we need to end this shutdown, not just to get America moving again, John, but to continue this great work that people like Jamie Comer and his committee have been doing. Because look, if all those pardons that were issued were done by an auto pen, they should not be legal. I'm not gonna play a judge and jury here, but it just seems, it defies common sense that you can have a president in the office, an executive, who probably has no idea what that darn pen is doing. Somebody else is directing it, and those can't stand. So this work needs to get done. But among many other things, as Morgan knows, we're on day 29. We gotta open this government back up. The Democrats gotta stand down, open the government back up, and let us all get back to work.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

What are your Democrat colleagues and Democrat leadership, what are they telling you? What are they saying? What have you heard?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Democrat leadership is completely off the rails. If you talk about the Senate, you've got Chuck Schumer, who, frankly, he's never running again. This is a, he's like an aged athlete. He's someone who has passed his prime. He knows he's all done. This is just a feeble old man who's afraid of losing his leadership position before the end of his term expires. Everybody talks about Ms. Ocasio-Cortez running against him. That young lady's got about as much substance as a warm summer breeze, John. She is not going to be running against Schumer in a primary because he won't be there. On the House side, I mean, it's crazy. Hakeem Jeffries has become basically a cartoon character. He's traveling around the country trying to bolster up his leadership position because he's likely not going to be the minority lead come the next Congress, too. And then you listen to Katherine Clark. Boy, here's a gem. She talks about causing suffering on the American people, whether it's the air traffic controllers that didn't get a paycheck yesterday, TSA, Custom Border Patrol, Capitol Police right here in Washington, D.C., or the 42 million low-income Americans who are about to have their SNAP benefits interrupted, which includes the 820,000 or so that you have in Virginia. Plus, I didn't even mention all the federal workers you have in Virginia, but Katherine Clark, leadership in the Democrat House minority, says this is the only leverage we have, John, is hurting all of these people. And that's what we're hearing from their leadership.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Why can't the Department of Agriculture accrue the money to fund the SNAP cards for this month? Because you've got a parliamentarian sitting right next to you and a constitutional expert in Morgan Griffith, and he will tell you that the funds that they all think we should be able to tap into, and I think it's like five billion, five or six billion, those funds are allocated in such a way that you don't have that kind of flexibility, unlike the funds that the president is accessing in other places, for instance, to pay the troops. So it's a legal issue. You gotta talk to some of the people who've done the analysis, John, to tell you why you can't. I know people are gonna try to challenge it, but that's been the decision so far. Well, we got the congressman here that knows about it. Morgan?

MORGAN GRIFFITH:



Well, the bottom line on this is is that you do have some funds, and maybe you could figure out a way to rearrange the funds. It wouldn't last very long, but we generally save those funds, and that's what they're allocated for. They're not there as surplus. They're there as a reserve for a situation where you have a natural disaster. So if you have, like Jamaica's being hit right now by a hurricane, if you had a hurricane hitting U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, we wouldn't then have any funds to take care of that. That's what that money was appropriated for. That's why it's sitting there. It's not sitting there to take care of Democrats who are shutting down the government with a clean CR. It's not there for those situations, and so it's a real dilemma, and it's hard for folks like me who feel very strongly that if we wanna create a different system for providing food for the most needy in the country, that's fine, but just shutting it off, that's not fine. We're gonna have hungry children, and I would love to be able to use those monies, but if we do that, we're violating the intent and the purpose for which that money was set aside to be there for a natural disaster, and if the Democrats can guarantee me that in the next two, three, four weeks, we don't know how long they're gonna keep this up, that there will be no natural disasters in the United States, could we figure out some way to do it? Well, maybe, but not while we're in a government shutdown. So if we were in D.C., if they get rid of the government shutdown, we wouldn't have this problem to begin with, and if we weren't in a government shutdown and we had some kind of an emergency where we needed to tap into those funds, Congress could make that decision, but without Congress making that decision directly, we can't take it away from that fund that's there for the emergencies, not for disaster relief and not for the situation caused by the Democrats in the United States Senate.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Hey, John, just to add on to what Morgan just said, that's over 300 children are going to be impacted in the state of Virginia. And by the way, Morgan, the Democrats-

MORGAN GRIFFITH:

300,000.

REP. TOM EMMER:

300,000, I'm sorry, I misstated it. Morgan, I was gonna point out, the Democrats in Congress, especially in the Senate who have shut our government down, they are a disaster, but I would say they're an unnatural disaster, and that's why it doesn't fit the definition. You're right, it's for natural disasters, not political disasters.

MORGAN GRIFFITH:

Amen.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Incredible. And Tom, I gotta tell you, we're very proud of our governor, Glenn Youngkin. Glenn actually found Virginia money because he had set aside money and didn't let the Democrats in the legislature spend it all. And so he's, at a Virginia fund, is gonna be able to cover our hungry children, but I worry about the other 49 states. Like mine, he's got the worst governor in the country. He's competing with everybody, but he's already won. He's not gonna help our kids and our low-income families. He's gonna blame Trump. So, Walsh isn't gonna do what Glenn Youngkin did and find a way to fund those snap cards with your money that is around him, and so he's not gonna do it. He doesn't have Glenn Youngkin's acumen. He's not a very bright human being. He's not competent. He's corrupt. And you've seen it on national TV. He lies about everything, even something as dumb as when he was at Tiananmen Square.

REP. TOM EMMER:



And, John, his answer when he's caught on national TV lying to the American people is, oh, gosh, I grew up in a small town and sometimes I'm a bit of a knucklehead. We have a knucklehead for a governor. You've had a champion for a governor. And by the way, that's why I love your victory bus tour, John, because it really, Morgan knows this. He and I served with Abigail Spanberger. You want pro-family policies, you want pro-freedom policies to continue, the same ones that you've seen for four years under Glenn Youngkin in Virginia. You do not want Abigail Spanberger. You need to elect Winsome Earl Sears. She was right there with the governor while they were doing all that work the last four years. And Abigail Spanberger, she's on the Marxist side of the party, whether people believe it or not. She tries to hide it, but she got her in a debate, Morgan. Somebody did when they asked her about boys and girls sports. She apparently doesn't have a problem. Abigail Spanberger doesn't. Having young girls have to be in dressing rooms with young men, it's insane.

MORGAN GRIFFITH:

Well, and it's worse than that, Tom. If you've been in private conversations like I have, she is all on board on that. That's part of her belief. And she believes that having transgender surgery for minors is absolutely all right, even if the parents are being excluded from some of the decision-making process in the beginning phases of a child going transgender. She defended that in a meeting with other Virginia Congress people and was dropping F-bombs, but apparently that's fairly common for her now.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

So you were actually, you were actually in a Virginia caucus meeting with her.

MORGAN GRIFFITH:

We were in a Virginia delegation meeting with Governor Glenn Youngkin, and Bob Good brought up transgender surgery. Actually, Jennifer Wexton brought it up first, and Bob Good said, I think this is a form of child mutilation to have a child making the decisions on these kinds of things. And I'm just summarizing. And then Abigail Spanberger interrupted. Good, she interrupted Good. She interrupted Good. She interrupted Bob Good and went on a tirade about how essentially when you boil it down, she dropped an F-bomb, maybe two, and then she said, this is not mutilation, it's healthcare.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Unbelievable. Healthcare, change of sex at nine years old, and it's healthcare. It's a crime. Unbelievable. I mean, it's just unbelievable. Somebody wants to weigh in. I know we got a lot, 888-480-JOHN. You can call 888-480-5646. Tom, this, we've asked this question to everybody. I'm about 0 for 15. I've asked 14 other elected representatives, Congress and Senate on the Republican side. We're trying to get this answer. You might be the one, even though you're a Twins fan, you might be the one. What is the Democrats' endgame? What is their, I mean, what is their vision of this ending? I mean, it can't go on in perpetuity. We're not gonna cave. They're not gonna get a million, 1.5 trillion dollars for illegals. What is their endgame here?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, it's interesting. I've said several times over the last couple of weeks that they should have read the book on shutdowns, John. Republicans wrote it. Federal government shutdowns, when you try to use a federal government shutdown to leverage your policy priorities from the minority, it doesn't end well. And by the way, Morgan knows this. If you're gonna go into something like this, and this isn't just a government shutdown, but you better figure out what your exit strategy is before you do it. They did this and they don't have an exit strategy. I kind of think the thing started to break. There were some smoke signals being sent last weekend by



our air traffic controllers. A couple of major airports had some significant delays. I think those were a forecasting of what is to come. People might remember back in 2019 when the government was shut down, a group of air traffic controllers didn't show up for work one day and essentially shut down the LaGuardia airport. And guess what? The shutdown was done pretty quickly after that. The reality is this. Up till now, most Americans haven't noticed and haven't been impacted by the fact the government's been shut down. This week, it's becoming very real. I mean, it would have been last month, but God bless the president, Donald Trump and his administration found money to pay our service men and women. That's not guaranteed again this time, although I understand they think they might have a way to do that. But guess what? You had the largest federal government employee union send a letter earlier this week. Out of the 1.4 million federal employees, they represent 820,000. And they directed the government should reopen. Vote for the clean CR and reopen government. I think these things, John, are the beginning of the end. I don't know, I can't tell you if these guys are insane enough to harm Americans over the next three, four weeks and let it get worse and worse and worse. I can't tell you they won't. But if history is any indication, the thing's starting to deteriorate this week. When Jared Golden, the lone Democrat from Maine who voted for the CR in the House, when Morgan and I and our group passed it and sent it over to the Senate, when he says a couple days ago, he just can't keep lying about the strategy that they have, it starts to give you an idea. Although you've got two insane senators, especially Tim Kaine. I mean, he thinks people aren't gonna, they're gonna buy this garbage when he says, well, I don't wanna vote for it and then have the administration cut a whole bunch of federal jobs and have people tell me that, oh, you knew that was gonna happen. Come on, Tim. People aren't that stupid. They see through that, open the government, let Morgan and I and you and your people get back to the negotiating table and actually resolve our real differences. I think it's gonna be over very, very soon, within the next couple of weeks at the worst, because I really believe what you're gonna see is air traffic controllers, John, didn't get a paycheck yesterday. That's the first paycheck that they've missed. I believe it's this Saturday that 42 million Americans, low-income Americans, will have their, in many states, maybe Virginia is an exception, but you can put that number on it, they're gonna realize what this is. So in other words, it's about to become very real for very many Americans. And because of that, Morgan and I are on the right side of this thing. We did our job. We voted to keep the government open, to support all of these benefits that people expect to get from government. And you've got, we need seven senators over on the other side, because of the filibuster rule, takes just a simple majority in the House, takes 60 in the Senate, which means we gotta have Democrats. And right now, Chuck Schumer is not allowing that to happen.

JOHN FREDERICKS:

Well, you had, when you tried to pay the military, you

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