



Rep. Tom Emmer on Now's State of the Union Special

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****HOST (HALLIE):**

** Whip, Tom Emmer. Congressman, thank you so much for making the time for us before you have to head in. I appreciate it.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Great to be with you, Hallie, Tom. Thank you.

****HOST (HALLIE):**

** So listen, one of the topics that we know is going to be front and center for Republicans certainly is immigration. And you've been a critic of President Biden's border policies. You've written on X that he could secure our borders today with the stroke of a pen. It is Republicans, of course, who tanked that bipartisan bill that would have given more power to the government when it comes to immigration and border security. So when the president brings that up tonight, sir, and we know that he is likely to do so, what is the GOP defense to that?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, the first thing I need to tell you is that the president has signed 64 executive orders since he took office, Sally, and those 64 executive orders have effectively undone the work that the previous administration did to seal the border. As a result, you've had eight point seven million illegals come across our borders in just the last three years. And with God of ways, that number is even higher. When you talk about the bill that was in the Senate, I mean, let's say talk about the fact that it couldn't even get cloture on the Senate floor. It didn't go anywhere. The House provided the Senate and the White House with if you are not going to undo your 64 executive orders, if you're not going to do what you could do yesterday to fix our problem at the border, then there are five things, five core things that Republicans suggested as early as last May. One, finish the wall to reform the parole president's parole authority. Three, I reform our broken asylum system. Four is in catch and release. And five is restore the remain in Mexico policy, which our custom and Border Patrol says would staunch the flow by 70 percent. That Senate bill, Hallie, that Senate bill didn't have any of that and in fact codified the catch and release the illegal catch and release that this administration is doing at the southern border right now.

****HOST (HALLIE):**

** Was any of the pushback because former President Trump made clear to your conference that he don't want to see this go through in an election year?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**



** President Trump's been talking about the border since 2014 or 15 when he started running the first time. No, the House Republican Conference. This is where we have been. And keep in mind those five things that I just gave you, they were delivered to Chuck Schumer last May and he has refused to do anything about it. And so the only thing we're left with is, Mr. President, if you're sincere about sealing the border, undo your 64 executive orders and do the job.

****HOST (HALLIE):**

** Congressman, President Biden will be speaking to House Republicans, including some who are actively trying to impeach him. You said your conference should follow the facts wherever they lead. And so far, investigations from multiple committees have not produced evidence of high crimes or misdemeanors against the president as of yet. As a member of leadership, do you think it's time to finally put your members impeachment push to bed?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** You can call it what you want, but the House has the obligation to do oversight of the executive branch. I know the journalism world wants to jump to the impeachment word every time, but our job is to follow the facts. I think Jim Jordan, I think Jamie Comer, I think I Smith, Jason Smith from Missouri. They've all been doing exactly that. Let's say let's find out what all the facts are. Let's see what we have. If nothing else, the people need to know if someone is actually selling their name or their relatives name for financial gain. So I totally rise to that level or not. And I think you're right, though.

****HOST (HALLIE):**

** But what would you tell the American people? What has the House uncovered in all this time that hasn't already been reported out?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, I think that's been widely reported. Bottom line is, I'm going to tell you again, Tom, it is our job to make sure we are doing the oversight of the executive branch and making sure that everything is transparent and out in the public. And I think our guys have been doing that very well.

****HOST (HALLIE):**

** Congressman, before we let you go, we've been talking about the possibility of some of these unpredictable moments from folks who are in the chamber tonight. We know what the House speaker has told members of your conference. Do you expect that they will respect the decorum directive, as you might want to call it, that the speaker put down?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Democrats, have been known to wear special uniforms, stand up and turn their back to the person speaking at the podium. I don't expect to see any of that tonight. But look, I can only control myself. And I plan to sit and listen very carefully to what the president has to say.

****HOST (HALLIE):**

** Congressman, thank you so much for making the time for us on what is a big and busy night for everybody in Washington. Appreciate it.



****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Thank you, guys.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

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