



Rep. Tom Emmer on THE SCOTT JENNINGS SHOW – 2025

SALEM NEWS CHANNEL

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****HOST (SCOTT):**

** Now, our special guest is Tom Emmer, the Whip of the House Republican Majority. Mr. Emmer, before I come to you to talk about the shutdown, I'd like you to hear from the President. Now, he and the OMB Director, Russ Vaught, are cutting some workers and some government programs. Let's take a listen to the President. What we're doing is we're cutting Democrat programs that we didn't want, because I mean, they made one mistake. They didn't realize that that gives me the right to cut programs that Republicans never wanted. You know, giveaways, welfare programs, etc. And we're doing that, and we're cutting them permanently. We're cutting a \$20 billion project that Schumer fought for 15 years to get, and I'm cutting the project. The project is going to be dead. It's pretty much dead right now. And we go live now to Tom Emmer of Minnesota, the Whip of the House Republican Conference. You keep everyone in line on the big votes, Mr. Emmer. You hear the President. Is this a good time during the shutdown to shrink the size and scope of government?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Absolutely, Scott. Thanks. Good to be with you again. Yes, the President is doing an amazing job, but what he pointed out is really interesting. It's the Democrats who have shut our government down, Scott, and because of their selfish, self-centered political partisanship, they've given Donald Trump the ability to do whatever he needs to do, which is including making difficult decisions about what is considered essential and what is not essential. And he's taking that to heart, and he's doing what the American people hired him to do a year ago in November, and he is going to resize and make this government more efficient.

****SCOTT:**

** It's kind of fascinating, Mr. Emmer, when you consider that it is the base, the grassroots base of the Democratic Party that has frightened Chuck Schumer into shutting down the government, but it's the base of the Democratic Party that will be angriest when President Trump and Russ Vought shrink the size of government. Let me read this to you. This is reporting from The Hill today. Here is a direct quote. People are going to get hammered if they vote to reopen the government using the House-passed bill. That is a Democratic senator who requested anonymity to talk candidly about the party. The senator said, and I quote, we would have enough votes to reopen the government, quote, if people were not terrified of getting the guillotine. Is this entire thing just about Chuck Schumer being absolutely terrified of the radical left in his party?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah, not just Chuck Schumer, but yes, he is the leader. He took a lot of heat for doing the right thing six months ago when we kept the government open. This time, he is so afraid of what has become the mainstream left. The hope is that once they got past their, they call it no kings, I call it the hate America rally that they had here on the mall last week. I mean, it's pretty ironic if you think about it, Scott, that you've got a bunch of



Marxists and communists holding this so-called no kings protest against the president who won the electoral college and the popular vote last November. These are the people, by the way, that call the president of the United States a fascist, yet they support Hamas terrorists. And this is the Democrat base. The far left is now the Democrat party's mainstream, and they're morally and politically bankrupt. And that's who these people are afraid of, Scott.

****SCOTT:**

** Yeah, it's quite shocking what we've heard at some of these rallies. Played a couple of clips at the top of the show, and in a minute, I'm going to play another one for you to get your reaction. Just one last question on the government shutdown. There is some reporting that Senate Democrats may be eyeing November 1st as a date where they could relent and vote to open the government. What are you guys hearing over on the House Republican side? Anything like that?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, we'll know this week, because what's probably going to happen here, you're going to have a vote tonight in the Senate. If it goes down, hopefully, now that we get past the Hate America rally on Saturday, Scott, they could peel off another three, four, five Democrats who understand how foolish this political partisanship is and all the damage that they're causing. If that doesn't happen, then I understand they're going to have a cloture vote, perhaps as early as Thursday, on a Ron Johnson proposal to do our clean CR with an amendment that would pay essential employees like air traffic controllers, service men and women, etc. If that would somehow pass, which they don't think it will, the Senate doesn't think it'll pass, but if it does, then our speaker has suggested that we may come back early next week to deal with that pretty quickly.

****SCOTT:**

** Yeah, we'll see how the Democrats want to play it, but real people are getting heard here. These government employees, TSA agents, law enforcement, military, and the president did move to pay the military in the first round of paychecks here, but there are real consequences to this and the Democrats are putting their radical base ahead of these hardworking government employees. Mr. Emmer, let me shift gears to immigration. Let us listen to Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem. She made a big announcement this morning on progress being made in arresting and deporting criminal illegal aliens in our country. Here's Noem. Since January, the Department of Homeland Security has arrested over 480,000 criminal illegal aliens. 70% of those individuals have criminal charges against them or have been convicted of those criminal charges. I want to get your reaction to that. Are we moving fast enough here on arresting criminal illegal aliens?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** I think Kristi Noem, Secretary Noem, is doing an amazing job, Scott. I think she's moving as fast as she can. The problem we have are renegade outlaw type governors, whether it be JB Pritzker or the goofy governor of Minnesota, Tim Walz, or Gavin Newsom. These people would prefer to protect criminal illegals that are in their cities rather than work with Kristi Noem and Donald Trump and getting them out. I think she's moving as fast as she can. I think our ICE agents are doing an amazing job all over the country. I think that the tide is turning. Once you hear those numbers, Scott, this is almost a half a million criminal illegal aliens. These aren't your neighbors, Scott. These are bad people. God bless Donald Trump and Kristi Noem for making sure that we're getting them out of here.

****SCOTT:**



** Well, the media certainly portrays them all as innocent victims of this roundup. But as Kristi Noem made clear today, there are a lot of violent criminal illegal aliens. They are rounding up and getting out of the country. On the same topic, the president continues to use military force against narco terrorists in our hemisphere. They've been sending people and drugs here for a long time. Let me play a clip from Vice President J.D. Vance. I think they've now taken out seven boats. Here's the vice president. It's important for the American people to recognize these are narco terrorists who are trying to bring poison into our country and kill our citizens. What happens to them? I don't really care so long as they're not bringing poison into our country. Do you agree with the administration's policy, this muscular policy, taking out these boats coming from Venezuela and elsewhere?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** I resoundingly agree with J.D. Vance. I think the time of tolerating hostile actors and narco terrorism is over, Scott. President Trump is clearly going on the offense. Finally, after four years of miserable foreign policy by Joe Biden, America is going to be respected on the world stage. And you pointed out tens of thousands of Americans die every year from tainted and illicit drug use, criminal drug trafficking in dangerous communities on the border, all the way to Minneapolis and St. Paul in my home state. And President Trump continues taking decisive action to keep the American people safe. I applaud him, and I hope he keeps it up.

****SCOTT:**

** Do you think we should see or move to enact regime change in Venezuela? Is it time for us to just take out Maduro, who's basically just a narco crime lord? Should we do that? There is an opposition party there. In fact, the leader of it just won the Nobel Peace Prize.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Yeah, well, Maduro is an illegitimate dictator, and he's a bad guy, Scott. Maduro's criminal network actually threatens us and all regional security, security in the region. I'll leave the decision on whether he should go to President Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. That's their lane to decide. But again, Scott, President Trump has shown us that peace through strength works, and that he, without question, is the master negotiator. And because of him, I think Americans can sleep well at night knowing competent adults are running our country again.

****SCOTT:**

** Let's talk energy for a quick second. The national average for gasoline has fallen below \$3 a gallon for the first time since 2020, and we're now pumping record amounts of oil from the ground in the United States. What's the gas situation up in Minnesota, and is energy policy one of President Trump's biggest accomplishments so far?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, among many, yes. The answer is yes, but it's among many. I come from a place called Wright County, and that's not R-I-G-H-T. It's W-R-I-G-H-T in Minnesota, where gas prices are already below \$3 a gallon, Scott. Anoka County, which is in my district, which is right in the metro area, is also seeing these low gas prices, again, thanks to President Trump. I saw this morning, Scott, that the average price throughout the state of Minnesota is \$2.84 a gallon. Now, Joe Biden did everything in his power to make America energy dependent on our adversaries and foreign nations. But look, Donald J. Trump has shown us that supporting American energy production works. It's a huge victory in just the first 10 months, yes.

****SCOTT:**



** That's Tom Emmer. He's the whip of the House Republican Conference. More with him in just a second.

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