



## Rep. Tom Emmer on THE SITUATION ROOM – 2025

CNN

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### **\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* Join us now is Republican Congressman Tom Emmer from Minnesota. He is the Majority Whip and sits on the Financial Services Committee Whip Emmer, thank you for coming on. You are a big supporter of Ukraine What do you hope will come out of this call with Zelensky this morning a day after President Trump talked to Putin?

### **\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I mean the thing Pamela, thanks for having me the thing that you left out in that was that literally within the last hour or two there was a prisoner exchange going on between The Russians and the Ukrainians. This is the first movement towards peace I would argue that we've seen since this war broke out And hopefully what's going to happen here is exactly what President Trump said He was going to do is get them both to the table and help them reach an agreement That can bring peace back to the region and you're absolutely right.

### **\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* We should have mentioned that 175 Prisoners, I believe were exchanged on both sides So that aside, you know the readout from both sides was that There would be a ceasefire on attacks on energy infrastructure But both sides Ukraine and Russia are saying that there were attacks Regardless of the call Putin has continued to make maximalist demands to control parts of Ukraine President Trump says land concessions are on the table Zelensky says Ukraine will not Recognize the occupied territories as Russian calling it a red line So, where do negotiations go from here

### **\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I think you've got a Master negotiator as a world leader who's actually trying to facilitate this mediated Discussion where that leads Pamela I will have to see you at least have two willing participants to have the discussion But do not expect them to start out by saying I'm giving up this I'm getting that or it's not going to work They're going to represent their people we should expect that and we should we should honor that I'm no fan of Putin But I think at the end of the day getting him to the table and having this discussion again It's the first step towards peace that we have seen in this conflict since it started and I'm very hopeful That there's a path that they're going to be able to get it done. So the Ukrainian people can get back to Living as opposed to fighting

### **\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* you call President Trump a master negotiator I know other Republicans have been saying that critics have argued that Putin is playing Trump that we know from history This is right out of his playbook that sometimes he uses negotiations as a stall tactic and that so far He hasn't really given up anything and he said after the Discussion with Trump that he will agree to the ceasefire if the u.s Stops all foreign military aid and intelligence to Ukraine. Would you ever support that?



**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Again I do say Donald Trump is a master negotiator I mean there is no other leader on the world stage That has his experience and has shown what he has shown in his first term What he's willing to do and what he can get accomplished if anybody can help these people get together and bring peace back to the Region, it's Donald J. Trump And you know you talk about Russia bringing Russia to the table Russia bringing Russia to the table But as you all know Russia wants to be Once the legitimacy Russia wants to be recognized by the United States Russia wants to normalize relations With the United States

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* and there are arguments from those who who have studied Russia That the u.s In order to really get Putin to come to the table in a substantive way that the u.s Needs to be tougher on Putin Would you like to see the u.s. Be tougher on on on Russia or even use frozen Russian assets for example Would that be a good idea?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I'm gonna tell you I think the time for that toughness that you're talking about Was when Joe Biden was coming into office the problem is Joe Biden and his administration Allowed this to happen and I agree with our president This conflict never would have broken out had he been the one in the White House and now he he's inherited What was created under the Biden administration and he's trying to get these two very different parties They don't like each other to the table to have a discussion to see if there's a path for peace in the region Which I don't think is of primary interest to Americans. It's of primary interest to Americans and everyone around the globe We would love to see these conflicts resolved and get back to the business of building relationships and doing business

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* Yeah And I know a lot of Republicans have said that they believe this would have never happened under Trump's watch Of course, there is no way to definitively Prove that and we will see what happens with these negotiations I want to pivot to Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts Rebuke after President Trump said a federal judge should be impeached over a decision He disagreed with listen to what retired Justice Stephen Breyer just told my colleague Wilk Blitzer about this. I Mean when you have a district court judge or you have a Court of Appeals judge somebody's gonna win and Somebody's gonna lose What do you think the losing side thinks of the judge or the judge's decision? Naturally, they think it's wrong. Of course that happens every day of the week across the entire country and judges are wrong sometimes So what does that person do he appeals? He asked for a special writ in some cases, but he gets others to review the decision Do you agree with the rhetoric coming from the president about the judges in particular this latest judge Boasberg Calling him a radical left lunatic calling for his impeachment calling him a troublemaker and agitator

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Can you hear me whip em er, oh, I'm sorry, I thought I thought it was going on I was listening to Justice Breyer Okay, I'm gonna I'm gonna tell you I think When it comes to the impeachment issue You already know you need 67 senators and after Chuck Schumer's humiliation last week I don't think he's going to go down that road anytime soon When it comes to this issue The the big issue is that 77 million people voted for Donald Trump and they voted for him to get these Criminals out of our country to make sure that we're safe and secure in our communities He's trying to honor that and as far as Working with the the legal system. I I think Justice Breyer said it best when you have a disagreement You'll resolve it through the courts, right? And there's no doubt that you know, President Trump was put into office by millions



**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* That's not the question and whether he's trying to carry out his his, you know policies the question is about the separation of powers and Whether the president of the United States should be calling for the impeachment of a judge As I know, you know, they're in the Constitution specific requirements treason bribery high crimes and misdemeanors But just overall big picture, you know, I know that you're a big supporter of President Trump, of course But he has tested the boundaries of presidential power and now seeming to want to do away with checks and balances He says he will follow the judges orders, but he clearly Has taken steps Not just attacking judges But he has gotten rid of inspectors general without notifying Congress under the law freezing funds appropriated by Congress trying to get rid of birthright Citizenship and the Constitution firing these this federal trade commissioners when there are Supreme Court precedent saying a president can't do it What do you think about all of that taken as a whole?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well again, I think this is a narrative that the media is trying to create no I'm gonna be respectful to but when you don't talk about The Dobbs decision that Joe Biden viciously attacked our Supreme Court because he disagreed with it and you make this look like something It's not Donald Trump's not happy. I'm sure but when it comes to what he's trying to do There are 77 million Americans who elected him to do exactly what he's doing. And you know what? There's a lot of Americans who are very frustrated with judges who appear to be legislating from the bench Instead of applying the law to the facts that are presented right

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* first of all Biden did not call for the judge to be impeached But as you well know there is a separation of powers. There's articles. I didn't use the word impeachment which okay But and listen that's in the past. This isn't about what about is I mean and I didn't just focus on the judge I also focused on everything as a whole but also look This is the way that our democracy works whether you like it or not And there is a you know a judicial process under article 3 that goes up to the Supreme Court That is what is happening here. This law was challenged. It went to a judge the judge made the ruling There's appeals and it goes up through the process Do you have a problem with the way that our system of government under the Constitution is made up?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Not at all if that's what you're asking me Pamela I would actually interpret some of the things you just said differently, but you and I have a different perspective on this I think I think that the administration is doing exactly what they were Elected to do I think the judicial branch is going to do what it has been doing and guess what you'll resolve it in court In the long run, that's why Justice Breyer It was a very balanced Statement when he talks about that's what you do. You'll appeal it. You'll take it from there

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* Yeah I don't think we have different perspectives then because we just laying out the facts that are the Constitution and how the our system of Democracy works. I want to go to something else Happening on Capitol Hill, you know after passing the government funding bill Republicans are pivoting to reconciliation in order to make President Trump's tax cuts Permanent as you know that the Congressional Budget Office says cuts to Medicaid would need to be included to meet the goals Outlined in the GOP budget millions of Americans rely on Medicaid What do you say to Americans that are concerned right now that they could lose their health care?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**



\*\* Well the statement that it requires a huge cuts to Medicaid benefits is simply not true I mean the GAO Pamela says that there's 50 billion dollars a year annually in fraud waste and abuse in Medicaid You can get 500 billion dollars over the 10-year window just by cleaning up the waste fraud and abuse So first I disagree with the way that that's teed up and second I when you talk about tax cuts I think that's a misnomer Taxes are where they are and where they've been since 2017 we're talking about do we allow the American public to experience the greatest tax increase ever 4.5 trillion to 5 trillion dollars Or do we can sit continue with the tax policy that we have right now? We agree with the president who told Americans that we would make it okay

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* And just to follow up you said you disagree with the way it's teed up I'm just telling you what Americans are concerned about we're hearing that in town halls as well across the country And it is a fact that that is what the CBO said that there would have to be substantial cuts to Medicaid to reach that 880 billion and cuts that Republicans would need President Trump. We should emphasize says Medicare will not be touched But he has endorsed as you're also seeming to endorse these so-called waste fraud and abuse Waste fraud and abuse What do you say to critics who claim that's just cover to make substantial cuts to Medicare and you're saying that because you know how? Bad it would be politically to say we're gonna make cuts to Medicare

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Donald Trump's already said that we're not and that there's there's no way Pamela you're doing it again. You're you're trying to put words out there that don't exist What this is is literally fine and by the way waste waste fraud and abuse you're not in favor of getting rid of You rely on the CBO you rely on the CBO that has absolutely been unreliable in the last Seven eight years or more. So while they're necessary, we got to work with them. You can't You can say it's nonpartisan But what did they say about the tax cuts and Jobs Act when it was enacted into law in? 2017 they said it wasn't going to generate any revenue like it has it's been exponential compared to what they predicted They're like weather people. They don't have to be right and they put these guys them

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* But what I'm getting at are Republicans going to make cuts through waste fraud and abuse to Medicaid as you said I'm not putting words in your mouth. I'm just I think cleaning up question. I I Think cleaning up programs getting rid of the waste the fraud the abuse so that these programs can actually be funded for the people Who they were created for I think that is a Republican Democrat and American goal And I think the president's doing it right and we're going to

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* what specifically does that look like when it comes to cutting waste fraud and abuse With Medicaid, how do you do that? What are you looking at? What are the metrics?

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**

\*\* Yeah, well, we'll get into the details as we go forward I'm going based on the GAO that says there's 50 billion a year that they can point to so let's figure out where that 50 billion is and let's clean it up

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* But Emmer, thank you so much for your time. We appreciate it

**\*\*PAMELA BROWN:**



\*\* Thank You Pamela

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