



# Rep. Tom Emmer on on The Story with Martha MacCallum

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## HOST (MARTHA):

holds the third highest Republican leadership position in the House after taking over the role from new Majority Leader Steve Scalise. Thank you very much, sir. Good to have you with us today. Congratulations on your new position. What do you plan to do in terms of tackling an investigation into where COVID started, and why do you think that should be a priority?

## REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, Martha, House Republicans are going to deliver in an area where Democrats have failed consistently over the past few years, and that is holding China accountable. As you correctly point out, we're going to stand up a COVID origin committee to get to the bottom of where the COVID-19 disaster, where the pandemic actually started. Why our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have tried to avoid the answer to that question and hold people accountable is hard to understand. We're also going to be bringing to the floor a, well, I'll put it this way. The American people are tired of the Biden administration's soft on China policies. That's why there's going to be the COVID origin committee. That's why we're bringing a strategic petroleum reserve bill to the floor, because the Biden administration literally has been selling our strategic petroleum reserve to our adversaries in China. And then, Martha, we're also going to have the China Select Committee that literally will hunt down members of the Communist Party of China who are here, wherever they are in this country, who have been meddling in our affairs and hold them accountable.

## HOST (MARTHA):

Well, all of those seem like very important national security initiatives that need to be addressed. I hope they'll talk to Dr. Robert Redfield, who we've interviewed several times, who says that this would never have been able to spread as quickly or evolve in as many variants if it hadn't been supercharged by being created in a lab as part of a gain-of-function experiment. And also, the team that was initially mounted by Mike Pompeo as secretary of state, they had an ongoing investigation that just got summarily dropped as soon as President Biden took office.

## REP. TOM EMMER:

That's correct, Martha. And bottom line is, the American public has been demanding these answers. They deserve the answers. And this House Republican majority is going to get them those answers. We deserve to know how this started, why it started, and make sure it never happens again. By the way, and hold people accountable for it.

## HOST (MARTHA):



All right, sir, I hope you'll come back. We had some breaking news, so we got a little bit short change today, but we want to talk to you about a lot more, so I hope you'll join us in the coming weeks.

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Absolutely. Thanks, Martha.

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