



Rep. Tom Emmer on on Fox & Friends

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BRIAN:

Let's bring in Minnesota Republican Congressman and brand new House Majority Whip, Tom Emmer. Congratulations. You finally, you guys finally got it done after what, how many days and how many hours? Fifteen rounds. So now today is the hard part, correct? You got to vote on the rules that you agreed to.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, I don't, I don't think so. Good morning, Brian, and thank you for that. Last week was quite an experience. Today really is, to me, it's not a big deal. The rules, which has not been widely reported, literally are the rules that our conference voted on after the election with one exception, and that is the motion to vacate is being restored to where it was for a hundred years before Nancy Pelosi changed it. That literally is the only change in the rules that our members will vote on tonight.

BRIAN:

Okay, so Mr. Whip, is Mr. Whip the correct title we should use with you? Mr. Whip? Just getting used to it. Okay. So is that the right term?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I, I think so. Okay. I, I like Tom, but, uh, Whip.

BRIAN:

I like Mr. Whip. So Mr. Whip, we understand that at least two congressmen on the Republican side, um, you've got Tom, uh, Tony Gonzalez and Nancy Mace have both said publicly they will not vote for the rules package. The rules package is a 55 page document, and according to Punchbowl, there is also a secret three page addendum that Mr. McCarthy and his allies hashed out during several days of the negotiations. Is that true? Are there three pages of stuff we'll not know about? And if so, generally you won't tell us what's in it, but generally what's it about?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, no, the first off the rules for Tony and Nancy, uh, Tony has said he's not willing to vote for them yet. Uh, Nancy on the other hand has said she's on the fence. Part of the thing that needs to be understood is the separate items that you're talking about, which I would argue has been mischaracterized, not unusual for a, uh, a local media outlet here on the Hill. Uh, the rules themselves, I do believe both Tony and Nancy will come around tonight when they realize the things that they want to talk about are in this separate agreement. And specifically, uh, my understanding is Tony wants to talk about a provision that says we're going to start with the FY 22 budget as the baseline. Uh, and this is a concern because you got, uh, in the, uh, in the spending, uh, approach, you've got the discretionary spending that involves both this out of control domestic spending since



before the pandemic under Nancy Pelosi, uh, and you've got a defense spending. And the argument is this would affect defense spending, which I'm here to tell you guys, Republicans will not impact defense spending aside from efficiencies and waste. Uh, it's the domestic spending that we're going to go after.

BRIAN:

Yeah. Some of the moderates, I know Republicans are worried about how some of the moderates are going to vote for some of these rules. I know members would get 72 hours to read the bills before they vote. You talked about the, the term, well, you talked about only takes one person to vote the speaker out or to start that vote at least. And then the term limits, Nancy Mace was on one of the Sunday shows and she said she's worried about these backroom deals. She's not sure what kind of deals were made in exchange for a vote for McCarthy. Byron Donald's was, was on television and he revealed, it sounds like he's revealing that he got the house steering committee in exchange for his vote for McCarthy. Listen to this.

BYRON DONALDS:

You're going to be a part of the Republican steering committee as Kevin McCarthy's designates. And part of that is going to be to make sure that the entire conference, you know, the, the ideological spectrum, if you will, is represented through all committees. And I think this is important because what I've seen in my first two years in Washington is this, and this is actually not Kevin's fault. This is the, the, the nature and the culture of Washington DC is that the members are actually really, uh, uh, uh, uh, separated from each other. They don't really get a chance to talk a lot and engage a lot unless they take specific interest to do. I think having more voices on more committees is actually going to help the Republican conference and Congress overall. So we can clear up a lot of the misconceptions about policy ideas and, and in political points. So we can actually do the right thing by the American people through a truly deliberative process that is open and there's a lot of conversations going on. I think it's a great thing.

AINSLEY:

Congressman, your reaction.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, first off, we've got to be careful not to conflate the rules in this discussion that took place with these points that I'm going to argue to you, Ainsley, uh, all of our members are going to support. There's no backroom deals. First on the rules, you're opening up the Capitol for the first time since the pandemic to the public. You're eliminating proxy voting and making people come to work. They haven't been doing it for years. Uh, you're reinstating the Holman rule, which is going to allow members to literally, uh, do targeted spending cuts within these huge bills. And you're eliminating the opportunity for these \$1.7 trillion, uh, Christmas tree laden ornament, uh, bills, uh, on the other side, you're, uh, the agreement that you will know more about. Uh, our members have been learning about it, uh, real time as we go through, uh, not all of them chose to be part of this, but they will now, uh, you're going to have single subject matter. Uh, you're going to have germaneness. What does that mean? Ainsley? Well, in the past, the house might pass a ceremonial coin bill for a famous American who did something important, send it over to the Senate. It sits there without action. And then guess what? They strip out that language. They put in a \$1.7 trillion spending bill and they send it back as the coin bill. That will not happen anymore. We're going to hold the Senate accountable. We're going to hold the house accountable. We're going to do what the American people expect.

BRIAN:



Let's see if you guys do get along because yesterday, Nancy Mace called Matt Gates a fraud every time he voted against Kevin McCarthy, sent out a fundraising letter. You guys got some, uh, open wounds that need some, uh, bactine.

REP. TOM EMMER:

It's all good. And human beings got to learn to get along together.

BRIAN:

They do. And just don't grab them by the neck before you go, Mr. Whip. Uh, what, do you have any idea what Kevin McCarthy said to Matt Gates in that very seemingly tense moment that got Matt Gates to vote for this for him?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I do. Present.

BRIAN:

What did he say?

REP. TOM EMMER:

What did he say? He and he and Matt were having a discussion that I'm going to leave between them if they want to disclose those, uh, what they talked about. I'll let them do that.

BRIAN:

Brian arrived, but he only voted present, right? Yeah. He voted. He never voted for him. Right. He said we had a deal. He said we had a deal. Give us a hint. Just give us a little.

REP. TOM EMMER:

They're learning how to get along.

BRIAN:

Okay. Good enough. What was the reason he didn't vote for him? Because he said on Sean Hannity show the night before, he kind of implied that he was going to vote for him that night. Yeah. And then he also said, what more, what was the phrase he said? What more can I ask for? He goes, yeah, he goes, I'm, I'm out of things to ask for.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Look guys, like every member of the Republican conference, the 222, everybody wants to have their voice heard and Kevin McCarthy's job that the leadership's job is to make sure that that happens. Right. That's what that was about. We heard a lot of voices for 15 rounds.

BRIAN:

All right. Fantastic. Tom. Thank you, Mr. Whip. I'll call you Tom. Good luck.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Good.



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