



Rep. Tom Emmer on joins Varney & CO.

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****STUART:**

** etc. House Majority Whip is Tom Emmer and he joins me now. Congressman, your party is said to be taking the country hostage. What's your response to that?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, it's another false narrative by left-wing media, Stuart. Thanks for having me. Bottom line is, Kevin McCarthy and the new Republican majority in the House are doing nothing more than what the American voters elected us to do. That is to work with the administration, not to default on the U.S. debt, but to make sure that if we're going to protect the debt by raising the debt ceiling, that we put in place some reasonable, some sensible, responsible fiscal changes so that we can not only ensure the prosperity that this country is supposed to provide to this current generation, but for generations to come.

****STUART:**

** I've had several people on the show suggesting that the Republicans in the House will cut waste dramatically. Okay, cut waste dramatically. Would that be enough cuts to do what you really want to do with this budget? Can you just eliminate waste and that does your job for you?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** No, I think it's going to be more than that. This has to be one of those things where we sit down with the administration, which Kevin McCarthy did for the first time last week. As you know, Stuart, when this started, the president said, absolutely no negotiation. Not going to sit down and talk to anybody. You're doing it my way or the highway. And that changed last Wednesday when the president said to Kevin McCarthy, come on in, let's talk. You show me your budget. I'll show you mine. Well, by rule, I believe of the House, Stuart, the administration, President Biden's supposed to have his budget out today. And under that same rule, then Republicans in the House have six weeks within which to produce ours. The president has said he's not going to put a budget out there till March. We will follow suit and follow the rules. And six weeks later, you'll see the proposal. But the focus seems to be on cuts. It should be about efficiencies. It should be about looking at waste. It should also be looking at the future. When we talk about the programs that matter most, let's put this thing on a path to sustainability. When you're spending \$1.29, Stuart, for every dollar you're bringing in, that's not sustainable and it's not responsible.

****STUART:**

** The president's State of the Union address is tomorrow night. Is this going to serve as the president's re-election campaign launch? He's not terribly popular with Democrats at this moment.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**



** Well, I mean, first off, I don't think he's running again. I think he's desperately trying to avoid being the lame duck president that he already is. But let's assume for a second that he is planning on running. What's he going to run on, Stuart? Double-digit inflation that we haven't seen in 40 years. Gas prices that are still up 50 percent over what they were when he took office. The grocery prices you just reported on. I mean, I've decided I'm going to buy my wife eggs for Valentine's Day. It's the most expensive thing I can find. So what is he going to run on? Two years of failure so far. Republicans, again, are poised to work with this president on the debt ceiling and spending reforms to put this country in a much better place. That might be a win for all of us.

****STUART:**

** Congressman Tom Emmer, thank you very much for being with us this morning, sir. Don't be a stranger. Come back soon. See you again later.

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