



Rep. Tom Emmer on FOX AND FRIENDS

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HOST (AINSLEY):

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer is at the GOP retreat, and he joins us now. Good morning, Congressman.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Good morning, Ainsley. Good to be with you.

AINSLEY:

Good morning. Well, it's so good to have you here. I know you're trying to whip the votes. Donald Trump, as you just heard, is preaching unity, says the Democrats always stick together. We have a slim majority. How is this looking? Will a reconciliation or two pass?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, it doesn't matter to the whip whether it's one or two. You give me one, we're going to pass that. You give us two, we're going to pass that. The work is in progress, Ainsley, so the final work product will be the key. All the committees are doing their work. We'll have a vote on a budget resolution next week which unlocks the process, and then it'll move forward from there. But our job is to make sure that every one of our members has ownership of this process. It works a lot better when you get to the end of the process if they've all been involved. And then, of course, the president, he's the big X factor. He's not only a unifier for this country, but he's a huge unifying force for our small majority.

AINSLEY:

Yeah. What are the issues? What do the Republicans disagree on? Is it tax cuts? Is it securing the border?

REP. TOM EMMER:

There's an internal discussion about how you account for the tax cuts. There's a group that looks at the government's accounting system as a scam, right? They count your income, Ainsley, in their budget before you ever earn it. And when we tell Ainsley she can keep some of her money, they suddenly say, oh, that costs us all kinds of money, when it's really about balancing the budget, taking care of your deficit, and dealing with the debt. There's another group that says we have to pay for it. I heard Brian talking about it earlier. It's about a \$4 to \$5 trillion, about \$4.5 trillion, we'll say, pay for that you have to get to do all of the tax cuts. You also have the chairs of these committees in the Senate and the House, Jason Smith in the House, who believe that a continuation of existing policy shouldn't cost anything, because we're not changing anything. So that's the debate. It'll play itself out towards the end. And when we get there, Ainsley, we are going to get this thing done. That is why the American people elected Donald Trump. And that's why we have to perform to enact his agenda.

AINSLEY:



OK. Well, Congressman, we've seen ICE raids now. Donald Trump's only been in office for a week in Chicago, in Boston. And now there are raids in New York City. They're taking effect today. Kristi Noem posted on social media that she is in New York and she is showing this video, posting this video of ICE officers going house to house and arresting these criminals. What's your response to that?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thank God. I mean, this is a promise that Donald Trump made on the campaign trail. Clearly, he won the popular vote. This is the issue. People want to be safe and secure in their communities. They are moving swiftly and quickly and very straightforward on removing all these rapists, murderers, gang members that have come across our southern border. And frankly, I wish they'd be doing it in my home state of Minnesota. I've got a governor that likes to say we're a sanctuary state. That's not putting Minnesotans first. That's not putting Americans first. Kristi Noem is enacting the president's agenda of putting America first. Let's get these bad actors out of our country.

AINSLEY:

Congressman Emmer, thank you so much.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thank you, Ainsley.

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