



Rep. Tom Emmer on House Committee Hearing

Broadcast: February 02, 2015 • Duration: 5:10

****CHAIR:**

** The Chair now recognizes Mr. Emmert from Minnesota. Mr. Emmert.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And to the distinguished panel, thank you for your time. I just have a couple of follow-ups. For Ambassador Edelman, I think you have answered it now. At the beginning, you talked about recommending, you recommended threatening or imposing new sanctions or additional sanctions. From your most recent comments, are you focused now on sanctions in the event these current negotiations are not concluded by the pending deadline?

****MR. EDELMAN:**

** Yes, sir.

****MR. KUCINICH:**

** If you could do me one more favor, and maybe I will take this to others. Sanctions can only be effective if they are not hollow. In other words, if they have an impact. It really doesn't matter what somebody says, whether they are going to honor it or not. If additional sanctions are imposed, whether now or once the deadline expires, are those sanctions going to be effective? Is that a rhetorical question?

****MR. EDELMAN:**

** Obviously, Mr. Emmert, it will depend a little bit on what you and your colleagues consider and what you put into the bill and how it is structured. I do think that there is, although I think Ray has written elsewhere that Iran is the most sanctioned country in the world, I do think that there is still room. There are other sectors of the economy that haven't been hit yet, so I think there is still room to turn up the pressure. I think there are other things we can do, and members of the panel have suggested it. Mr. Sherman, for one, others have. It shouldn't be just economic pressure. I think there ought to be support for democracy movements inside Iran. I think there ought to be broadcasting. I think there is a whole panoply of things we ought to be doing to put the regime on notice that we will oppose it across the board as it seeks to exert its hegemony in the region.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Mr. Einhorn, in the interest of time, I have a different question for you. In the beginning, during your testimony, you indicated that you believe continued strong pressure, but not sanctions, additional sanctions at this point, would be the prudent course of action. But then you went on to say that we have time, that we don't need to act now, and if the current deadline expires, comes and goes, that we still have time. How much time do we have, sir? What do you recommend? Another 6 months?

****MR. ZIENTS:**



** I wouldn't put any arbitrary time limit on it. All I am saying is that the current interim arrangement works to our benefit much more than it works for Iran. Their nuclear program is frozen in all meaningful respects. The sanctions are biting very hard. I think if we cannot get the deal we want to get, we can afford to wait. They are under much more pressure than we are.

****MR. MCHENRY:**

** Sorry to interrupt, but in the interest of time, if the United States, our interest is peace and prosperity, not only in that region but across the globe, and presumably that is one of the underlying reasons for these negotiations with this regime, what is Iran's incentive for a viable deal?

****MR. ZIENTS:**

** Their main incentive is to get out from under the sanctions that are crippling their economy. I think that is what brought them to the table. That is their incentive.

****MR. MCHENRY:**

** Again, we get limited with time. We have already heard testimony that their policy has not changed. Their goal remains the same, and that is the elimination of Israel and the United States. So getting out from underneath sanctions, again, I am going to ask you, what is their incentive then is just to bypass any real solution so that they can accomplish their goal?

****MR. ZIENTS:**

** A number of panelists have made this point. They have to have a clear choice. They have to realize that they can't achieve their goal except by agreeing to a deal that meets our requirements.

****MR. MCHENRY:**

** Let me ask Dr. Takei, isn't the only way that you can give them a clear choice is if you have some choice? In other words, you either reach an agreement and eliminate the nuclear prospect, or these sanctions will be imposed.

****DR. TAKEI:**

** I think at this particular stage, even in aftermath of an agreement, Iran will maintain a nuclear infrastructure of some capability, and after expiration of a period of time, perhaps a decade or so, then it is free to move toward industrialization of that capability. So we will have to live, with or without an agreement, within Iran with a sizable nuclear infrastructure.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Thank you. I yield back.

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Source: (February 02, 2015)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/CUKrYH7booA>



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