



Rep. Tom Emmer on Squawk Box

CNBC

Broadcast: December 08, 2023 • Duration: 10:47

JOE:

a whip, Congressman Tom Emmer, whose name was up in lights for a little while around the country in that crazy search for a, well, which crazy search for a speaker, the second one? Second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth? Yeah, one of those. Well, one of those. One of those. I've seen both sides, I don't, I'm not going to say demagogue it, but I saw what Schumer was saying, how that there's, there's just, in no universe are these two things related. You know, we should do, I'm perfectly willing to talk about the border, as long as we do it separately from Ukraine and Israel. I can see how it's kind of related, though. We care about our own people and our own country, don't they? We care about Ukraine, too, but this is out of control. 12,000 people a day. It used to be, remember, Secretary of Security, Secretary Jay, said, yeah, he said 1,000 was crazy. 4,000 was completely untenable. Now we're at 12,000. So why is it, why so much resistance?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, it's interesting. I think he's got resistance within his own group in the Senate, but it's also probably related to the House. You know, the Senate and the House are always competing. Mike Johnson has said that he's willing, we're not going to abandon Ukraine, has been our speaker's statement, but if we're going to help secure someone else's border, we're going to secure ours at the same time. So he has related the two, and he has told them we need to have substantive changes to seal that southern border. And I think the challenge that Chuck Schumer has, Joe, quite frankly, is that the Biden White House needs a win on the border because you don't have to be just a Republican. You just got to be an American. This is the number two issue after the economy for most Americans. I think that's finally making its way over the transom at the White House, and it's sad. It's like, you know, politically, we need to do something about the border. It wasn't going to be that it was something that we needed to do, but now it's actually starting to hurt the polls and things like that.

JOE:

What are the specifics, though, that the House is pushing for that the White House won't accept? Because they keep saying too extreme. So what if you're just looking at the very extreme issues there? What are they?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, that's just it. What is extreme? Remember, that's what they say is they are extreme issues. The House passed the strongest border security bill in 20 years back in May. That bill would seal the southern border. They want to claim that it eliminates asylum. They want to claim that it gives people who have a legitimate interest in coming to this country. It precludes that from happening. It does not. What it does, pretty much what we have right now, if you enforce the laws, people have an opportunity to come here. We can seal that border. And the biggest issue, by the way, Joe, I should have added, this is a national security issue. It's not just that Americans, politically, have had enough and they've seen what happened. But this is dangerous. It's not just fentanyl. It's bad actors that are coming across our southern border. Chris Wray the other day just scared me.



JOE:

Yeah, and I'll go back. This is a political move. Let's talk, and it's a distant comparison, but pipelines, for instance. When somebody doesn't want a pipeline and they're political, they say, well, I just don't like the route that that's taking. I think we've got to change the route. And that's what I'm hearing from Chuck Schumer. Oh, this is extreme. We can't have that. Well, tell us, what exactly is extreme and what would you change?

REP. TOM EMMER:

The challenge Mike Johnson's going to have in the House is that we have a group that wants just the border security bill that we passed, all of those pieces. In the Senate, John Thune has told us that we're probably not going to get all of them, but there are the substantive ones that can make a real difference in securing the southern border. And we'll have to see if Chuck Schumer allows it to move.

JOE:

I did hear something that sort of sounded almost like the Republicans taking a page from the Democrats playbook, and that was, we're more worried about funding IRS agents than we are about helping Israel. And that seems, now it seems like you're back to, you know, that's a domestic, according to Democrat, that's something we really need domestically, whereas Israel, you know, you could say it's the same thing as saying, well, we need to help Ukraine without helping ourselves at the border. Do we need to help Israel without, and use the funding for the IRS for a pay-for?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I mean, this is disgusting, frankly. The House voted through the \$14.6 billion that is necessary for Israel. That's what they had requested. We did that more than a month ago, Chuck.

JOE:

And interesting novel, Chuck, sorry, Joe, good morning, Andrew, you're talking about Chuck Schumer. You just called me Chuck.

REP. TOM EMMER:

I know, I know. Isn't that great? Take a shot at it. I see it. That's like the Jonathan thing. Yeah. You can call me Tim. There you go. Chuck. Oh my God.

JOE:

But the interesting concept, Joe, is that we paid for it. We took the money out of this, the huge pot of money that Democrats gave to the IRS. We got Andrew involved here. He thinks that we definitely need, Andrew, we need that money, don't we?

ANDREW:

We do. Look, we got to figure out the border. I'm not, you and I, I'm saying we need the money for the IRS, I'm trying to get you involved in here. Yes. I mean, the idea that the pay-for comes to the IRS, to me, makes no sense whatsoever. What does the Congressman say?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, the fact that it makes no sense, personally, you're talking to somebody who would have passed it without a pay-for. But the pay-for idea is when you've got a country that's bleeding \$1.7 trillion on an annual basis and



you're \$33 trillion in debt, the idea is let's find something to pay for this aid. But you don't usually take it from the place that actually takes revenue from you and makes it actually harder to actually collect revenue in the future. That's a whole different discussion. Yes, they say that's going to make money, but one, they haven't hired the agents yet. Two, we would have a disagreement about that. They also say they're going to take it from those who have the most. When you're hiring this many IRS agents, I guarantee you that billionaires have plenty of people to tell them how to protect their money. Main Street, USA, small businesses, they're the ones that are going to get hit.

JOE:

The interesting thing about the immigration proposals at this point is you do have some support from the Chicago mayor, from the governor of Massachusetts, Democrats. Has the mayor of New York actually signed off on that yet? He seems like he's been a little quieter. He's been quiet on the reforms, but he hasn't been quiet on the problem. Is that maybe the thing that ends the logjam, that you have blue cities, blue state governors and mayors who kind of come to push this over the finish line?

REP. TOM EMMER:

It goes back to what Joe was complaining about or pointing out. Why does it have to be a political issue when it's the right thing to do is seal our own border? The good people that want to come here for the right reasons are able to come here. Leaving a wide open border, nobody can understand exactly why. Why is it wide open? These mayors putting pressure on the White House absolutely will be helpful to moving it. The question is what will the Schumer Senate do and how is the White House going to move them?

JOE:

You think this actually happens before the holidays? We've got a couple of weeks before something goes and Ukraine is in a pretty desperate situation.

REP. TOM EMMER:

We actually don't. We've got five or six legislative days left in the year. So no, the answer is not a yes. It's unlikely. We're going to have the NDAA conference report, I believe, voted on next week. This is the other thing that's very troubling. The House has actually had all 12 appropriations bills on the floor. They are all ready to be conferenced with the Senate. The Senate has only passed three of them so far. We need to get together and get those appropriations bills done before we get to January 19th.

JOE:

Yeah, well, you've still got a majority. We're losing a couple of good men there.

REP. TOM EMMER:

We are. McCarthy and... Patrick McHenry.

JOE:

Yeah, and McCarthy. Eventually. Gates going to be there in a year? That's up to Matt Gaetz and the people that vote for him. So it's not going to be some type of, I mean, there's nothing coming down from the ethics investigation that would...

REP. TOM EMMER:



Oh, I don't know anything about that. I know that...

JOE:

You know nothing about that? Really? You haven't heard anything about that?

REP. TOM EMMER:

About what it is and what they're doing. I know that somebody just restarted or there was something reported in the last couple of days that the ethics investigation is still there. That's what I know.

JOE:

Some people say the Senate might be a better shot than the House in 2024. I disagree. I think the Senate's got a great shot. I think it will turn because it's got an excellent map and they've got great candidates. But, Joe, I ran the campaign operation for four years, and in 2020, when we were losing the White House and we were losing the Senate, we were told we were going to lose 25-plus seats on the Republican side. Well, you waited until 2022 to have a horrible...

REP. TOM EMMER:

I disagree with you. You know that...

JOE:

Should have been better.

REP. TOM EMMER:

What's that?

JOE:

Should have been better. Look, I would disagree with that, too, because I told our guys for two years, don't measure the drapes. You do not win majorities on redistricting. Republicans are not great at it. Do you know that in 2012, after the last decade's maps were first run on, Republicans in the House lost the popular vote by one point to Democrats, and we had 234 seats. In 2016, we won the popular vote. We had 241 seats. Last November, Chuck, we won the popular vote by over three points.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Chuck again. Do I look like Chuck? You called me Chuck again.

JOE:

Jonathan. Hey, Chuck. Jonathan, what do you think of this? Yeah. Joe, Chuck... Chuck, I love this. I love this. I'm going with Chuck from now on. I think he's thinking Scarborough. Now on. Oh, yeah, I might be talking about Chuck Scarborough, since Joe Scarborough stole my name for Morning Joe. I'm not going to be invited back. That's the bottom line. No, if you're in the studio... Yeah. You know, it's that two-year thing we worry about, and no one's safe. Now you see what the problem is. The minute you're elected, you start working on your re-election, right? I don't know. Yeah. I defer to our founding fathers. They're looking better. No more statues of them around, but they are looking good. All right. Congressman, thank you.

REP. TOM EMMER:



Thank you. Good to have you on. And you are Minnesota. You're Minnesota nice. You are Minnesota nice. You're nice to me, and you call me Chuck.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: CNBC (December 08, 2023)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/xat6zZ-1Wg8>

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