



Made in America Panel Bullish about the Nation's Strong Workforce Picture

Host Neal Asbury, together with co-host Dr. Rich Roffman, opened their nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates) by announcing that the Armed Forces Network will be broadcasting Made in America beginning in February of 2018.

"This is such an honor for us to be sharing the good stories about our country; an alternative to the negativity of main stream media. We want to remind our armed forces that America is still the greatest nation on earth and jobs are being created," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, suggesting that our troops need to hear about all the great things that are happening in this country.

The first guest on Made in America was Bill Driscoll, New England district president of Accountemps, the world's first and largest specialized staffing service for temporary accounting, finance and bookkeeping professionals. He noted that people are switching jobs because there are so many opportunities for them.

According to Neal, 29 percent of workers are looking for new jobs --not because they were fired, but because there are so many better jobs available.

"There is a lot of hiring going on. Employers want to upgrade their workforce. And workers are really optimistic about the future and are embracing upward mobility. The unemployment rate is under four percent. The nation's workforce is expanding and employers are paying higher salaries," noted Driscoll.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that jobless claims are the lowest in 45 years and 196,000 manufacturing jobs have been created. "Exciting things are happening."

The discussion turned to resume protocol, with Driscoll noting that the onus against a one-page resume is waning. A two-page resume is acceptable for more experienced workers with a longer work history.

Driscoll revealed that the job market in L.A. is heating up, with 40 percent of workers seeking new jobs. Austin and Dallas also are strong job markets.

Neal and Dr. Roffman returned to a favorite topic on Made in America: the ill-conceived continuing attacks on President Trump, despite the fact that 2,000,000 jobs have been created since he became president.

"Wonderful things are happening in this

country. Apple is repatriating \$350 billion that can be reinvested in the economy. It's as if Apple is rediscovering America. They are an example of big corporations that are finding that it's been a long time since America was primed for investment and growth. It's all due to Trump's economic policies and tax reform. Apple is still bullish even though they are paying \$38 billion in taxes, which will help shore up our tax base," noted Dr. Roffman, who added that vocational training is required to match manufacturers with workers possessing the skills they need to fill thousands of jobs.

Neal noted that while Amazon's Jeff Bezos is worth \$106 billion, his worth will continue to grow as Amazon continues to shake up retailing. And Walmart, still the world's largest retailer, has raised the minimum hourly wage for its workers to \$11.00 per-hour, and has paid out bonuses to its workers.

The next guest on Made in America was Dr. Ralph M. Ford, chancellor of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, who has overseen a program that brings together students and private industry concerns to help steer students to meaningful careers. Neal noted that similar programs are successfully being implemented in Germany, which has helped fuel their economy and job creation.

"Willing to make changes is what academics do best. Partnering with industry and the outside world was once frowned upon, but today, committing to these partnerships has shown to be very successful at Behrend and at other institutions. It's been a good way to get more kids interested in engineering which has shown a small but steady increase over the years," suggested Dr. Ford, who added that we live in a transitional economy, so students should look beyond their current studies, for example, combining English classes with computer skills to make them more marketable.

Neal complimented Dr. Ford on the contributions that his college has made to the community in Erie, including attracting a Scandinavian firm that is investing in a plastic manufacturing facility.

Neal noted that the best education combines learned knowledge with skill training to work on real life projects.

Dr. Ford agreed, adding that while students should still pursue their passion in selecting courses, they should be building their skills, and not be afraid to change direction.

The show concluded with Neal reiterating his strong support for programs that combine government, business and academia.

"That's how you build a world-class economy -- something that other countries have done more successfully. We need to come together as a country, and that includes bringing in skilled immigrants who can fill the job openings that impact the ability for a manufacturer to grow and innovate," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that the government has a tradition of helping universities and industry achieve success. It helps identify programs that can match skills with open positions.

Neal reminded listeners that black unemployment is at a record low, and that the number of food stamp recipients has been reduced by two million -- a sign that jobs are available.

Dr. Roffman noted that a Rasmussen study revealed that 64 percent of participants agree that one should work in order to qualify for welfare.

Each week Neal Asbury's Made in America provides Neal's insights into the week's top news stories and their impact on the worlds of entrepreneurship, small business ownership and the overall economy. Neal's analysis, together with co-host Dr. Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience, takes a non-biased approach based on real life experience in business as an American manufacturer and exporter. Made in America airs nationally each Saturday from 7-8:00 PM on Radio America. Link to Made in America at <http://www.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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