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## Made in America Panel Advocates on behalf of a Fair Tariff System that Lets American Exporters Compete on a Level Playing Field

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 reminding listeners that the Armed Forces Network will be broadcasting Made in America beginning in February of 2018; and also announcing that KPKW in Aberdeen, Washington will now be airing Made in America.

The first guest on Made in America was Tori K. Whiting, Research Associate, for the Center for International Trade and Economics for the Heritage Foundation, who weighed in on the move by the Trump administration to raise the tariffs on solar panels and washing machines. Whiting proposed that raising tariffs are never the answer in trade disputes.

"Inevitably when the U.S. raises tariffs, it results in higher prices for Americans. Although the perception is that tariffs are aimed at China, it's actually about countries around the world. In the case of solar panels, only 10 percent are manufactured in China. When you fire a proverbial missile at China, the shrapnel hits everyone, including Americans," maintained Whiting.

Neal agreed, noting that as a manufacturer and exporter of ice machines, Malaysia slaps a 45 percent tariff on his machines.

Whiting notes that there are no easy solutions to solving tariffs, but she thinks that the World Trade Organization often can resolve many trade disputes. Although Neal is not a fan of the WTO, Whiting revealed that when America goes to the WTO to resolve trade disputes in most cases America comes out ahead.

"What we really need are government leaders who can stand up for America and not let other countries dictate trade terms and prices. While everyone is up in arms about washing machines from China, most of them come from Korea, including those sold in Sears stores," noted Whiting.

Neal maintained that trade is often unfair. "Too often American exporters have their hands tied behind their backs. While America opens its borders, other nations don't reciprocate."

The discussion turned to Davos, described by Neal as a gathering of the "high and mighty—well-heeled execs from around the world, who don't like or respect Trump."

"And then you have Trump walking into this lion's den, where they don't like him, despite the fact that as the American economy soars, it's helping the economies of countries around the world. It's a crazy situation," maintained Neal.

Dr. Roffman added that even powerful Democratic financial leaders such as Jamie Dimon

and Lloyd Blankfein have to admit that the economy is soaring under Trump, although they still don't like him.

Neal agreed, adding that while Democratic leaders like Nancy Pelosi give lip service to their support for the average American, they have no empathy for them at all. "They don't have any connection to the average American worker. They are global elitists," suggested Neal.

Dr. Roffman concurred, reminding listeners about Trump's vow to drain the swamp.

"That swamp is massive and only one guy vowed to drain it. Trump is doing what he promised, and yet he is attacked unmercifully every day," maintained Dr. Roffman.

The next guest on Made in America was David Almasi, vice president of the National Center for Public Policy Research, who characterized the attack on Trump as the "new normal."

"It's not unusual for one side to attack the other but in Trump's case he's being attacked by both sides. The economy is going great but people continue to find fault with Trump," proposed Almasi.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that Democrats like Nancy Pelosi sneer at the bonuses being voluntarily paid to workers by companies across the country.

"She dismisses them as 'crumbs.' But \$200 is not a crumb to most workers. She is so out of touch. Meanwhile you have 40% of workers in Los Angeles looking for better jobs. That's a sign that the economy is growing," noted Dr. Roffman.

"This really shuts down arguments about a minimum wage. Companies are raising wages voluntarily. It's a real sea change. Companies like Starbucks, attacked for their wages, are sharing the wealth by raising wages and giving bonuses," added Almasi, who added: "Sorry, no free coffee."

Neal reminded listeners about Obama's ill-fated stimulus program which didn't give the average worker any money. "Now people are seeing real money."

Neal queried Almasi about Trump's voter base, which seems to be ill-defined.

"I'm convinced that support for Trump is growing as the economy improves. Even though most supporters aren't talking about their support for Trump, their voice will be heard in the voting booth," concluded Almasi.

The final guest on Made in America was return guest Greg Corombos, news director for Radio America, who is concerned that the Mueller investigation has gone off track, moving away from an investigation of Russia's possible interference in the 2016 election and toward events that took

place with sketchy ties to the Trump campaign. Corombos also is wary of Trump testifying under oath during a Mueller interview.

Dr. Roffman also believes that it would be a mistake for Trump to testify under oath.

"It is obvious that they are out to destroy the Trump administration. They want to trap Trump in a false statement. Nothing good can come out of this," predicted Dr. Roffman.

Corombos would rather not see Mueller speed toward a conclusion until all the facts are in, especially the missing FBI memos. He is not sure whether the secret society reference made by two FBI employees will amount to anything.

The discussion turned to the movie Dave, a 1993 movie about an affable temp agency owner with an uncanny resemblance to the president (who is in a coma) who substitutes for the president and is able to cut through the red tape to actually get things done.

"I loved the part of the film where Dave announces that 'it's Wednesday...and everybody works on Wednesday.' He is able to simplify the process of deal making and actually puts people first so they can get a job and improve themselves," according to Dr. Roffman.

Dr. Roffman segued to a discussion of the strange decisions being made in California, which includes environmentalists who want to outlaw the sandwich because it uses too many natural resources.

"That's nothing compared to a proposed ordinance that would fine or even jail waiters who give diners a plastic straw, or an initiative to impose a meat tax on people who eat meat," concluded Dr. Roffman.

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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