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Made in America Panel Urges More Support for Trade Schools and Apprenticeships to Train Today's Manufacturing Workforce

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 noting that job creation has been accelerated due to the Trump election. But at least one big organization is downsizing--the Clinton Foundation--which is downsizing since crony money is drying up.

"Maybe they ran out of product," quipped Dr. Roffman.

The first guest on Made in America was Marcus A. Winters, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and an associate professor at Boston University. His research focuses on education policy, including school choice, accountability, and teacher quality.

In his introduction to Winters, Neal made the point that if we expect manufacturing to keep pace with a renewed economy, we need to find trained employees who can build and maintain the new generation of industrial equipment.

"Young people are not going into the trades, and schools have de-emphasized training in trades. We need to see a cultural shift take place so that younger people are not stigmatized by looking at trade schools and apprenticeship programs as an alternative to college. While Millennials in the U.S. rarely look at trade schools or apprenticeship programs, young people in Europe are drawn to these fields. They command good salaries and are sought after. In fact, 10 times more young people in Europe enter trade schools than in the U.S.," according to Winters.

Neal noted that robots and automation will impact the labor force, but reminded listeners that there will be a renewed demand for people who can maintain the equipment since robots can't fix themselves—or at least not yet.

Winters added that some industries, like HVAC, have coined the term "silver tsunami" to indicate an aging workforce that will require younger workers who can repair the equipment.

Neal and Dr. Roffman segued to a discussion on the emerging sense of amazing job growth, pointing to the Keystone Pipeline as an example of a job-creating project that had been blocked by Obama.

"It's not even about job growth – it's about the way that the pipeline would help make America energy independent, which

would lower domestic energy costs and make America's manufacturers more competitive," noted Neal.

Dr. Roffman added that while Obama tried to woo union members, they overwhelmingly voted for Trump because they understood Trump's commitment to job creation—and job retention.

Neal and Dr. Roffman returned to a frequent topic: the flood of regulations under Obama that stymied manufacturing.

"I think people are on board with Trump's vow to reduce regulations by 75 percent or more. It's not hard to embrace this when you realize the \$2 trillion price federal regulation compliance costs the economy," according to Neal.

The next guest on Made in America was Wayne Crews from the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who agreed with Neal's assessment of the damage caused by regulations.

"I think Trump will make good on his promise to take an axe to regulations. We have already seen the length of regulatory registries drop from 70,000 to 45,000 pages. Trump has promised to put a moratorium on regulations, and for every new regulation introduced, two existing regulations have to be eliminated," according to Crews, who added that Trump can freeze the more than 2,500 proposed EPA regulations in the pipeline.

Crews also suggested that Trump can slow down regulations by having each new regulation brought before congress. Already, the most recent federal registry is only 71 pages, the smallest in many years.

Dr. Roffman is looking forward to seeing business leaders come on board and help Trump spur job creation and the economy. But unlike the Jobs Council formed by Obama, which accomplished nothing, Trump has convened a business group and gave them 30 days to come back with a cohesive plan. One of their tasks will be to accelerate infrastructure projects.

Neal is concerned that Trump has been attacking free trade agreements like NAFTA and TPP, but not considering the potential economic risks or the unintended consequences.

"Mexico buys more U.S. products than Japan and China combined, so getting into a trade war with Mexico is a bad idea. And pulling out of TPP will make China the trade power in the very lucrative Asian market. He went way

too far," proposed Neal.

Crews concurred, adding that the wall issue is controlling the news cycle and has diverted attention from more pressing issues.

"One of the problems with TPP is nobody really knew what was in it since it was unveiled in secrecy; the way that Obamacare was introduced," suggested Dr. Roffman.

"We can't afford to take a time-out from world trade," concluded Neal.

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.nealasalburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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