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Made in America Panel Applauds the Fact that Businesses Have Given Employees Bonuses or Raised Wages due to Trump Policies

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 giving kudos to President Trump for his State of the Union address, and castigated Democrats for embracing chain immigration.

"I lived in Asia for many years and experienced the practice whereby one relative emigrated to the U.S. and then over the years brought over 8-10 more relatives, most of whom were unskilled and sat around doing nothing waiting to get their citizenship. Meanwhile they collected American benefits. Democrats booed this reference during Trump's address. How can you think this is an acceptable practice?" asked Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, wondering who the Democrats are representing when they boo chain immigration. "Illegal aliens? That's political suicide."

The first guest on Made in America was Karen Kerrigan from the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council who proposed that "President Trump delivered a powerful address about the state of our nation and how pro-growth policies have lifted the economy and small business optimism. Building on his policy successes by advancing the next layer of small business priorities will fuel the dynamism and energy that our economy needs to extend opportunity and the promise of the American dream to everyone."

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that after watching the speech there could be no confusion about which party and which president is speaking out on behalf of all Americans. "Optimism has never been higher."

Kerrigan is a big advocate of crowdfunding and received an award during the crowdfunding convention for her success in helping startups raise capital.

"Crowdfunding is a great way for anyone to invest in a promising startup. More than \$100 million has been raised via crowdfunding to help startups grow. It's a great start but we'd like to diminish some of the red tape so more entrepreneurs can gain access to funding," noted Kerrigan, who added that there is a lot of pent up capital available, and crowdfunding democratizes the process of raising capital.

Neal returned to the topic of chain immigration and the way that unskilled foreigners are crowding out skilled immigrants that could contribute to the American economy. He is afraid that if the skilled immigrants can't gain access to

the American workforce they will take their skills to other countries.

"We should be rewarding skilled immigrants, not making it harder for them to come to this country," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding: "People talk about the immigration system being broken. That's not true. It's the enforcement system that is broken."

The next guest on Made in America was Anastasia Boden, an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation, who revealed that legislators and lobby groups are forcing workers in some occupations to earn certification or a license to be able to work in their state. This has really impacted returning veterans that have the skills but can't work unless they pursue certification.

"People assume that licensing workers helps protect the public. But there's no proof of that. Instead, boards representing some occupations purposely use licensing to make it harder for workers to gain entry to a profession. This essentially helps diminish competition. It's the point where 1/3 of Americans need a license to pursue a vocation. As an example, people pursuing a career as a shampooer must put in 248 calendar days of work study," according to Boden.

With tongue in cheek, Dr. Roffman asked whether you could get credit as a shampooer if you previously shampooed pets.

Boden laughed, but noted that 37 states have certification programs for shampooers.

"A lot of these certification boards are really strict and can pull operating licenses to punish people who owe back taxes or unpaid traffic tickets. That essentially keeps them from working and making money. It makes no sense," proposed Boden.

The final guest on Made in America was Vance Ginn, a free market economist with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, who concurred with Neal and Dr. Roffman that Trump had a lot to take credit for during his State of the Union address.

"In 2009, there were 638,000 jobless claims. Today that figure is 230,000. You have to credit Trump's policies for this change. While some people give credit to Obama, the big change did not occur until Trump changed the tax rate and reduced regulations. The GDP never rose past 2 percent under Obama. Now the GDP is it at 3 percent, and above. Meanwhile, 200 businesses have given their employees bonuses, usually at \$1,000. And many have raised wages. Our Texas

model is working and other states should pay attention," concluded Ginn.

Neal returned to the State of the Union address, and found it amazing that "we're seeing the lowest job claims in years, while black and Latino unemployment is at the lowest rate in history. Democrats sat on their hands when this news was shared during the speech. Are they rooting against America?" asked Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, characterizing the Democrats, with their sullen faces, as looking like Muppets.

"How can you not applaud veterans and health care? The black caucus ignored the news about growing black employment. The Democrats just looked like obstructionists, and I think they're losing votes. How does it look when Democratic Congressman Luis Gutierrez walked out of the speech early when the legislators were chanting USA?" proposed 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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