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Made in America Panel Anxious to See Republicans Really Develop a Realistic Plan to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act

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 the stock market has added \$2 trillion in value since the end of 2016. This is new wealth—not the result of taking money from other sources, or as the result of cronyism.

Co-host, Dr. Roffman, added that the stock market is on the longest winning streak in nine years.

The first guest on Made in America was Greg Corombus, news director for Radio America, who has heard mixed explanations for the disruptions breaking out at Republican town hall meetings. While many believe they are a Tea Party-like grass roots movement, others believe that they are being paid by George Soros to disrupt the meetings.

"Obamacare continues to be a point of contention since it has always been unpopular, as it becomes more expensive while coverage drops. The Republicans look like they will repeal it over the next 30-40 days, but it is doubtful that a replacement plan will be in place. They can't agree on the tactics," proposed Corombus.

Dr. Roffman noted it seems to bear out if we believe former Speaker of the House, John Boehner, who suggested that the Republicans don't actually have a replacement plan and are just engaging in "happy talk."

Corombus predicts that many Republicans will want to repair ACA rather than dismantle it entirely, but may be willing to let states decide whether or not they want to continue it. This may not come to a head until January.

Dr. Roffman proposed that if the nation's leadership doesn't take a more active role, the replacement plan will not occur and said that "time is the enemy."

Corombus agreed, hoping that Paul Ryan takes a leadership role since he seems to have an actual plan in mind, and wants to move faster than Mitch McConnell.

Neal and Dr. Roffman segued to a discussion about the waning power of unions.

"Boeing workers in South Carolina overwhelmingly rejected a bid to unionize their plant. People recognize that one-party rule and unions have destroyed job creation. Unions don't see that what they are selling their members no longer works. The only reason unions exist is through forced memberships," according to Neal.

Dr. Roffman added that union wage costs have forced many companies to flee to Mexico.

"But then unions did virtually nothing to try and stop them and save American jobs. They are completely out of touch with the nation and with their workers," noted Dr. Roffman.

The next guest on Made in America was Caroline Freund from the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who is very bullish on the proposed Border Adjustment Tax, which adds 20 percent to all imports.

"If you're an exporter, you should love this tax. It subsidizes export taxes. It's not perfect and will affect the value of the U.S. dollar. Some companies don't support it because it will add extra fees to the parts and components needed to manufacture goods assembled in the United States. But these fees and the exchange rate will level off over time," according to Freund.

Neal is skeptical about the effect this will have on the value of the dollar, making it more expensive for foreign customers to sell their products in the U.S., resulting in extra import fees that will be passed onto middle and lower income customers who are ill-equipped to pay higher costs for lower-cost and basic goods.

Both Neal and Dr. Roffman wondered who is actually supporting this tax. They predicted that this tax will have unintended consequences, actually costing Americans more money; not lowering their costs but actually raising them. They also suggested that by lowering and raising the value of the U.S. dollar, the tax sounds like currency manipulation.

Freund disagreed, noting that currency manipulation occurs when a country lowers the value of its currency to be more competitive globally. The Border Adjustment Tax will actually strengthen the dollar. It lets the U.S. dollar move freely.

"We have been living with a system of tax inefficiencies, letting companies take advantage of loopholes so they don't pay their taxes. The key is finding the right balance between efficiency and affordable prices," noted Freund.

Neal suggested that the Border Adjustment Tax was not thought through and was "just thrown out there to see what happened. We can't just throw out ideas. We need to grow our economy. Most of the world's wealth has yet to be discovered. If we want this wealth to be accumulated in the U.S. market, we have to make sure we support the innovation that raises

capital and creates jobs," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that U.S. companies have been the world's innovators, and we need to do whatever we can to keep the wealth in America.

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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