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## Made in America Panel Anticipates that Supreme Court will Rule Against Unions that Force Employees to pay Dues Against their Will

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 and by the Armed Forces Network) by recalling a possible Supreme Court decision in 2016 that could have ended the union practice of forcing employees to pay dues even if they didn't support the union's donation activities. Yet, Justice Antonin Scalia's untimely death resulted in a four-to-four tie, which kept the unpopular practice alive.

"This would have been a huge, huge blow to unions and to the Democratic Party since it would have choked off dues revenue, which is funneled to the Democrats to support their activities," noted Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that it would have a profound effect on union membership and dues revenue.

The first guest on Made in America was Ted Dabrowski, president of Wirepoints.com, who believes that Justice Neil Gorsuch will rule in favor of free speech and support Illinois union member Mark Janus, who is suing the AFSCME over being forced to pay \$45 per month to fund his union's activities --activities that he does not support and does not want to fund.

"Unions have been given outsized power to force compliance with their demands, even if it means putting a company out of business, such as occurred with Hostess. In the public sector, unions have amassed the power to force raises while forcing employees to pay dues that support a union's stance on political issues even if an employee disagrees with their stance," according to Dabrowski.

Neal characterized such moves as "un-American."

"If the Supreme Court rules against the unions, unions would lose lots of money and their political clout," proposed Dr. Roffman.

Dabrowski noted that unions dominate the politics in states like Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio and California, because they use part of the millions of dollars in union dues to support state Democratic leaders that support the union's agenda.

"In Illinois, the teacher's union is bankrupting the state with their out-of-control pension plans. No other state has a union with this much clout, and that allows a teacher's union to strike anytime they want more money. The unions are contributing to a mass exodus of companies and people who are looking for a more stable economy and opportunities," noted Dabrowski.

Dr. Roffman proposed that this is what occurred

in Detroit, where union demands forced the Big Three auto companies into financial peril. People fled, the tax base eroded, and the only people left in the city were poor people who couldn't afford to move.

Neal is confident that the Supreme Court will rule in favor of Janus, which will have big ramifications for union membership and revenue. "How did we ever let unions force public employees to join unions and pay dues, whether you want to or not?"

Dr. Roffman concurred, adding that if Hillary had won, it would have consolidated union power. "The democrats depend on union donations. It's all about the big money."

Neal and Dr. Roffman weighed in on Trump's recent pronouncement that there will be a 25% tariff on imported steel and 15% tariff on aluminum. Dr. Roffman noted that Trump is making good on his promise to make America First, although this tariff position will cause domestic prices to rise on products made from steel or aluminum.

The next guest on Made in America was Ray Keating, chief economist with the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, who maintained that protectionism never works, and agreed with Neal and Dr. Roffman that the steel tariffs will hurt U.S. manufacturers who depend on foreign steel to produce their products, ranging from washing machines to appliances. But they also agreed that the tariffs play well among Trump's supporters in the "rust belt."

"The tariffs will benefit states like Pennsylvania, with a big steel presence; but rewarding the few will have consequences for the many," noted Dr. Roffman.

Keating blamed special interest groups for steering the tariff discussion in their favor. But it hurts small businesses that depend on imported steel. It also will force other nations to retaliate, similar to what occurred as a result of the restrictive Smoot Hawley Tariff Act of the 1930s that contributed to the Great Depression.

The final next guest on Made in America was Greg Corombos, news director for Radio America, a frequent guest on Made in America, who concurred with the previous discussion that it was no accident the tariff initiative came on the heels of Trump's announcement that he was gearing up for the 2020 election.

Dr. Roffman agreed, but noted that Trump's pronouncement "scared the heck out of the stock market."

In light of the resignation of Trump's Communications Director, Hope Hicks, who was set up in a hearing where she confessed that she told

"some little white lies," Neal reminded listeners that Obama told a lie of his own when Obama proposed that there were no scandals during his administration.

"Hicks' admission came during a closed door meeting. Suddenly, the media loves closed door meetings and can't wait to report on them. But it didn't help Hicks that she had a relationship with Rob Porter, who had to resign after he was accused of spousal abuse. The problem in the Trump administration is that so many of his closest advisers had to resign, and now there's a group of advisers that he doesn't know as well or trust. This puts more pressure on him," suggested Corombos.

Neal added that Trump's announcement that he's gearing up for 2020 election should put an end to the rumor that Trump didn't want to be president.

The discussion turned back to the perceived scandals that seem to be plaguing the White House. Neal suggested that it has taken up much of the media coverage of the Trump administration, which Dr. Roffman proposed has been a boon to CNN, which does nothing except cover perceived scandals.

The discussion segued to the promising news that America has become the largest oil producer in world, surpassing Saudi Arabia and Russia, which Dr. Roffman noted is creating thousands of good paying U.S. jobs while the oil revenue stays in America.

Neal also noted that America is exporting coal – the kind of coal that reduces emissions, and which is absent from China and India. Neal proposed that American technology could help those countries start producing cleaner energy.

The show ended with Dr. Roffman revealing Rolling Stone's front-man Keith Richards, is upset that manufacturers are creating drugs that don't have the kick to which he's accustomed.

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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