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Made in America Panel Applauds Moves to Renegotiate the Flawed Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

Host Neal Asbury opened his nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by some 70 affiliates), by marveling that the topic of trade, often ignored by most Americans, has suddenly become a hot topic during the political debates, and by both parties

Co-host Dr. Rich Roffman is pleased that rank and file voters are talking about trade and are recognizing that trade can be a job creator, but only if it allows America to compete on a level playing field.

"On one hand, union leaders are fighting against Donald Trump. On the other hand, union leaders are finding that their members are no longer willing to march in lock step with the direction unions are going as far as the policies and candidates they support."

The first guest on Made America was Christa Huff, a political activist who considers the Trans Pacific Partnership a big mistake.

"TPP changes the value of transactions with other countries by allowing them to manipulate their currencies so their products are cheaper for customers. This will be especially true for the auto industry where American car exports carry tariffs while foreign cars are essentially tariff free. You have to ask yourself what the purpose of TPP is, since two-thirds of the countries that would belong to TPP are already U.S. trading partners. Much of this is being driven by multi-national corporations that are looking for more profitable markets and cheaper labor," according to Huff.

She added that one of the biggest shortfalls of TPP is that it creates a global court system that can override U.S. laws if the ruling is adopted by the majority of TPP members.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that when the U.S. cannot compete on a level playing field with other nations, the U.S. loses.

"There needs to be penalties for nations that break trade regulations by manipulating their currencies. And the answer is not to start restricting trade. We tried that by enacting the Smoot-Hawley tariff act of 1930 that contributed to and extended the depression," reminded Dr. Roffman.

"It's ironic that congress is thinking

about granting Obama fast track trade authority to negotiate free trade agreements, but it comes at a time when even Republicans, who generally support free trade agreements, are questioning TPP, which was to be one of Obama's presidential legacies," noted Neal.

Christa agreed, and suggested that TPP will not be passed by year's end, and "will probably not be taken up for a vote until after November. Many congressional members who voted for TPP may be voted out of office, so the ultimate decision will be in question."

Neal and Dr. Roffman continued the discussion on trade, with Neal noting that TPP is "poetic justice" against Democrats who in 2006 delayed giving George Bush fast track trade authority for free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia and Korea so that they could deny him credit. And now Obama is facing a similar situation, undermining his legacy of getting TPP passed.

"It's not just about TPP. It's that both Democrats and Republicans don't trust the government, so they don't trust Obama on trade. It's amazing," maintained Dr. Roffman.

"I'm a free trader, but we need to ensure that TPP addresses subsidies and currency manipulation so we have a level playing field," said Neal.

Dr. Roffman noted that Donald Trump is asking the important question whether we understand the definition of "fair trade."

"We don't want a trade war with China. But TPP is not a fair deal for the U.S. It only benefits China and other member countries," proposed Dr. Roffman.

The discussion turned to the out-of-control U.S. debt, where despite collecting \$1.2 trillion in taxes during the first two months of 2016, we are still running a deficit of \$315 billion--worse than in the first two months of 2015.

"No wonder we can't create jobs. We can't sustain a \$19 trillion debt, which could double if Bernie Sanders is elected and carries through on his promise to give Americans anything they need. We must control our spending and our debt if we are to get 92 million Americans back to work,"

concluded Dr. Roffman.

The next guest on Made in America was Michael Stumo, CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, who believes that we are spending too much time talking about exports and not enough time talking about global trade in general.

"We need to be addressing global supply chains, not just America's supply chain. So we need to rip up TPP. It will do little to improve global supply chains and create more U.S. manufacturing jobs. We need to create good paying manufacturing jobs, and not look to service jobs to improve our economy. Trade helps create manufacturing jobs. We simply must let America succeed by dealing with foreign trade cheating," proposed Stumo.

The final guest on Made in America was John Hornick, the author of "3D Printing Will Rock the World," who suggests that the 3D printer is "arguably the most powerful machine ever invented, its possibilities are endless."

Neal, who uses a 3D printer to create models that help him develop products more quickly and inexpensively, likes 3D technology.

"Yes, 3D printers can make components and things like plastic Yoda heads, but the bigger industrial machines coming on the market can produce products in metal, glass and sand for molding. It all takes place on one machine, reducing the space required, manpower and operating costs. Although this technology has been around for about 30 years, the U.S. is really finding that advanced applications will have a very positive impact on innovation and on our economy," maintained Hornick, who added that 3D printing will ultimately shrink the size of factories needed to produce products, creating jobs and encouraging more U.S. companies to stay in the U.S. instead of going overseas.

Dr. Roffman and Neal moved onto



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a discussion about cronyism, with Dr. Roffman wondering who paid for the private jets that allowed congressional leaders to fly to a private island near Georgia to plan ways to prevent the nomination of Donald Trump as a candidate.

"Some 54 private jets flew down to the meeting owned by big corporations like Google, Apple and others, but it looks like members of congress got a free ride. I think that this is a pure case of cronyism," remarked Dr. Roffman.

And finally, Dr. Roffman smirked at the shenanigans of billionaire Nick Hanauer, co-founder and partner of Second Avenue Partners, who traveled around the country exhorting big employers to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. However, back in Seattle, where Hanauer is headquartered, he refused to raise the minimum wage for his own employees.

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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