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03/17/2018

Made in America Panel Lauds Program that Helps Veterans Transition to Good Paying Jobs

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) with Neal recounting his recent experience exhibiting at the International Housewares Show in Chicago where his company promoted a number of their products. The talk of the show, according to Neal, was that retailers are increasingly challenged to adapt to the rising tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, which he finds a detriment to business growth and pricing.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that Trump is making good on his campaign promise to tackle trade agreements. In particular, the impact that steel tariffs are having on the steel industry and employment.

However, Neal would like to see Trump do a better job supporting veterans by letting them bypass the certification requirements that keep them out of the workforce.

The first guest on Made in America was Alfredo Torres, CPRW, who works with the Veterans Education Transition and Employment (VETE) directorate of the Virginia Department of Veteran's Services to ensure that every veteran or eligible person has a full and fair opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential through access to the G.I. Bill approved post-secondary educational, training/licensure/certification, entrepreneurial institutions, V3 certified employers and Virginia Colleges and Universities.

"Our veterans have amazing skills that can easily transfer to real world jobs. For example, we're helping medical corpsmen and women, who have advanced medical training, transition to hospital jobs, where they can gain experience while getting their degree. We also sponsor a 'values program' that educates employers about the benefits of hiring veterans, especially in manufacturing who need employees with the skills that veterans learn in the military," noted Torres, who is trying to steer veterans away from traditional law enforcement jobs, and toward other opportunities, especially among veteran-friendly employers in a variety of fields.

Neal, a manufacturer who is always in need of skilled employees, applauded Torres' efforts to link veterans with manufacturers.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that veterans represent an enormous talent pool. Employers need to appreciate the value of our veterans and their work ethic.

Neal and Dr. Roffman returned to a discussion of the enormous change in retailing, where main street stores were superseded by large malls, and

now by online options. Retailers are increasingly challenged to predict where the new economy is headed.

"Amazon changed the paradigm of retailing and paved the way toward the new commerce structure. Every major company is going to need to have a major internet component to survive," proposed Dr. Roffman.

Neal noted that the old "brick and mortar stores" have been replaced by the "click and mortar" stores.

Dr. Roffman and Neal discussed Larry Kudlow's new role as Trump's top economic advisor, but predicted that he and Trump don't see eye-to-eye on everything especially when it comes to tariffs.

The next guest on Made in America was Chris Stansbury, a former Republican member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, and co-founder of West Virginia Eye Consultants in Charleston, who proposed that "small businesses aren't just the backbone of our national economy. They're the engine of durable, sustainable economic growth in states and localities from West Virginia to the West Coast."

"Across the country, small business creates two-thirds of all new jobs. Almost all businesses are small ones. We see right up close how broad-based tax cuts help power small business—and how tax cuts that benefit job-creating small firms power Main Street. This includes the revitalization of the coal and natural gas industries," maintained Stansbury.

Dr. Roffman suggested that America is "experiencing an economic renaissance. The country is headed in the right direction and there's a growing sense of optimism."

Stansbury concurred, noting that people are seeing more money in their paychecks in West Virginia and across the country. He shuddered to think what would have happened if Hillary Clinton had been elected president.

The final guest on Made in America was Greg Corombos, news director for Radio America, who opined that the firing of Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State was not a big surprise, and many people had predicted that Trump would make this move in light of the clash in opinions between Trump and Tillerson when it came to Iran's nuclear program.

Corombos predicted that Tillerson's replacement, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, will be more in sync with Trump's policies. And the jury is still out on the future of H.R. McMaster, Trump's national security adviser. Pompeo should be approved by congress, but the future of Pompeo's replacement, CIA Deputy Director Gina Haspel, is very much in doubt, based on her checkered history with the CIA,

including erasing tapes of waterboarding sessions that took place under her supervision.

The conversation turned to the midterms, which have high stakes for the Republican Party. First-term presidents usually see erosion in their party's prominence. Yet, Neal can't understand why the growing economy, the increase in jobs and repatriated dollars back to the U.S. should turn voters away from Republicans. Republicans should be running on an economic theme.

"During Obama's first mid-term, the House underwent the biggest change in history. Democrats failed to remember Bill Clinton's motto- 'It's the economy, stupid.' But we still have lots of time before the mid-terms," noted 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.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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