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04/22/2018

Made in America Panel Proposes that Blue States will Continue to Fail until Voters Wake up to Economic Reality

State economic stability, free trade benefits and a re-evaluation of China as a trading partner were among the topics tackled by host Neal Asbury, co-host Dr. Rich Roffman, and a panel of experts on the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates and by the Armed Forces Network).

The show began with Neal discussing the factors that separate blue and red states when it comes to job creation and economic stability. To gain more insights into this phenomenon, Made in America welcomed Jonathan Williams from the American Legislative Exchange Council, whose organization annually releases Rich States, Poor States--Economic Outlook Rankings.

In their latest Rankings, Utah was ranked first, while New York was ranked last, followed closely by Vermont, Illinois and California.

Dr. Roffman proposed that while the bottom ranked states are beautiful, beauty has little bearing on whether a state will be economically successful.

"One of the factors that link the bottom ranked states is that people and businesses from that state are relocating to more successful states where they have a sounder economic policy and lower taxes. Meanwhile Utah has been ranked first for eleven years based on their steady growth, flat tax, and their success in managing their pension system," noted Williams.

Neal was curious about Texas' ranking and was surprised to learn that it ranked lower than expected. Dr. Roffman, a big supporter of Texas, noted that from a psychological and demographic perspective, Texas was poised to succeed, but people moving from nearby states may have skewed the state's conservative political structure.

Williams suggested that while Texas was on a growth curve, they stood still on their economic plans, which slowed their momentum.

Williams proposed that Nancy Pelosi's plan and that of the Democrats, is all wrong; and is just a continuation of Obama's failed economic policies.

"It's easy to blame the president, instead of taking responsibility for their states' welfare," maintained Williams.

Neal agreed, wondering why blue states continue to re-elect Democrats that have been unable to manage their states' economy, continuing their "policies of destruction."

"It's totally confusing to me why states suffering from bad leadership continue to elect the people responsible for their failed policies. It only gets worse when people moving into a state embrace the same failed policies that caused them to move in the first

place," suggested Dr. Roffman.

Neal proposed that Florida is a state that supports entrepreneurs and seems to be doing everything right, including not allowing people moving into the state from corrupting the state's successful policies.

Moving onto the national economy, Neal noted that the federal government is clamping down on people who abuse the food stamp program by collecting entitlements when they could be working.

The next guest on Made in America was Brian Riley from the National Taxpayer Union's Free Trade Initiative, who agreed with Neal and Dr. Roffman that free trade agreements are an important component of America's economy but also that some existing free trade agreements could use some refinement.

"The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has plenty of room for improvement, but I don't agree with Trump's plan to scrap NAFTA and start over. When we evaluate free trade agreements, it shouldn't be based solely on trade deficits -- it should be about creating jobs," according to Riley.

Dr. Roffman hopes that the U.S. gets back into a re-written Trans-Pacific Partnership, but agrees with Trump's approach to trade based on bi-lateral agreements.

Riley concurred that one-on-one trade agreements are the way to go, but that doesn't mean dropping out of international trade agreements like TPP, which gives participating countries greater access to each other's markets.

Neal agreed, noting that Mexico and Canada are reaping enormous benefits from NAFTA, as is the U.S., but Canada and Mexico are also benefitting from the trade agreement with the EU, which does not include America.

The final guest on Made in America was John Tamny from Freedom Works, who thinks that America shouldn't be bashing China on trade.

"Amazon is based in Seattle, but Americans who don't live in Seattle don't care one bit where the online retail giant is headquartered. All they care about is that their lives are much easier, and their paychecks stretch much further, thanks to Amazon's existence," proposed Tamny, who has taken Republicans to task for positioning China as the enemy; despite the fact their goal is similar to Amazon's.

"What's shameful is that the policy and thinking behind all this is a rather childish and a potentially crippling step backwards. Once desperately poor, and now merely poor relative to the United States, the people in China are producing feverishly precisely because they want to attain the American-

style lifestyles that are the envy of the world. They'll do so by virtue of meeting the needs of the richest people in the world. That would be the American people," opined Tamny.

While Neal and Dr. Roffman liked many of the opinions expressed by Tamny, they took exception to Tamny's assertion that America shouldn't be upset that China is stealing America's intellectual property because they don't know what to do with it.

"That is nonsense. From personal experience with my businesses, I know that China knows exactly what to do when they steal intellectual property. They steal my products, use my packaging, and sell it on Amazon. Then they can send it to America using the U.S. postal service at cheaper postage rates. But when I complain to the Department of Commerce, they ignore my complaints," maintained Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that "even when you complain to your state representative it falls on deaf ears and you usually get voice mail."

Dr. Roffman returned to the topic of China's propensity for stealing intellectual property and understanding its value. As an example, China has stolen America's stealth technology for its jets from the U.S. Air Force.

"China is winning the trade battle. They have enormous patience and will bide their time until they steal the technology they want. It's all about winning. Their goal is to beat the rest of the world," concluded 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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