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Made in America Panel Predicts that Health Care House Vote will Give Way to Battle of Messaging

Host Neal Asbury, together with co-host Dr. Rich Roffman (who remotely joined the show later in the broadcast), opened the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates) by predicting that the narrow victory in the House for the Obamacare repeal and repeal bill means that the bill is in for a tough Senate vote from emboldened Democrats.

The first guest on Made in America was Greg Corombos, news director for Radio America, who suggested that the House affordable health care celebration will be short-lived if it gets tangled up in the Senate, where Democrats have more sway.

"This could be the best time for Republicans to get this bill passed, but there is a lot of work to do. Twenty Republicans voted against the bill, so it could be tough sledding in the Senate," noted Corombos.

Neal was curious if Democrats are right in assuming that the widespread displeasure of the revised bill will help Democrats take back seats in the House in 2018.

"It could turn out that way, but Republicans need to do a better job personalizing the benefits of the revised bill. Democrats are much better at putting a face to their healthcare plans. Republicans need to be able to do the same thing. As we move forward, it will become the battle of messaging," according to Corombos.

Neal was dubious over claims that 20 million Americans will lose their coverage.

"This figure is misleading. States will largely determine what coverage is offered, but a big factor in that figure is the number of Americans who drop their coverage when they are no longer forced to buy a plan. We have to wait and see if subsidies go away and whether premiums will come down," proposed Corombos.

Neal suggested much of the reason for higher premiums is that too much money is being allocated to catastrophic diseases, using up funds that were intended for regular healthcare coverage. As a result deductibles are soaring as coverage is diminished.

"As people begin understanding the bill, things will change. But the longer the debate goes on, the longer it will take to get tax reform under control. The Affordable Healthcare Act rewrite should not be piggybacked to tax reform," suggested Corombos.

The discussion turned to the Border Adjustment Tax, which Neal thinks is a really bad

idea. It will result in higher costs for manufacturers, which will be passed onto consumers. It will really be detrimental to American exporters.

Corombos agreed, but added that the big battle coming up is the budget. Democrats are pleased that it doesn't punish Sanctuary Cities or defund Planned Parenthood. Republicans are pleased that it greatly increases the budget for the military, reduces money to the EPA, and increases money for border security, although it doesn't fund the "Mexican Wall."

The next guest on Made in America was John Tamny from RealClear Markets, whose piece entitled "The New York Times Has Fallen For An Economic Impossibility," takes great issue with the paper's contention that "There is a worldwide glut that includes oil wells, steel plants and eager would-be workers, and it will take more than a United States presidential election and a few months of solid global growth to fix it."

According to Tamny, the problem is that the previous supposition presumes the existence of what is a mirage: an economy-wide glut.

"To be clear, there's no such thing as a broad "glut" such that prices across the board fall. As logic dictates, falling prices merely expand the range of goods that producers can demand; thus driving up the prices of other items. Prices are how a market economy organizes itself, and as such they're rising and falling together with great constancy," proposes Tamny.

Tamny points to innovations such as the laser printer, which fell from and initial price of \$17,000 to under \$100 today. He adds that when the economy is growing, it increases demand, and prices begin to fall. When the economy isn't growing, prices stay low. There is no such thing as glut.

Neal wondered whether inflation could actually help prices rise.

"Devaluing currency is inflation. There are no gains when inflation rises. In fact, the government should not even be measuring inflation. The president gets the dollar strength he wants," maintained Tamny.

Neal is not a fan of the Border Adjustment Tax, and neither is Tamny, who calls the tax "ludicrous."

"Passing this tax will increase the cost of goods for every American. I think it will be dead-on-arrival when it reaches congress. I can't imagine why any smart person would want this tax passed," suggested Tamny.

The final guest on Made in America was

Romina Boccia, Deputy Director, Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies and Grover M. Hermann Research Fellow for the Heritage Foundation.

"The government is growing faster than the economy. It's consuming more of the economy. It really is a national security threat. Our hands would be tied in the event of a crisis. Government spending has reached an unsustainable level," according to Boccia.

She notes that the Heritage Foundation has created the "Blueprint for Balance," which lays out a 7-year plan to get government spending under control. Among its highlights: reducing government spending by \$87 billion through the elimination of some non-productive agencies, eliminating duplication, ending corporate welfare, and ending the allocation of R&D funds to a select group of favored industries. She also advocates for refining social security disability insurance, which must commit to getting people back to work.

Calling in from Houston, Dr. Roffman expressed appreciation for the entrepreneurial spirit in Houston and hopes that it can be recreated elsewhere.

The discussion turned back to the Affordable Care Act repeal, which Dr. Roffman opined that while the voting was close, it had to be introduced.

"It was really classless that Democrats sang a taunting song after the vote, anticipating that they will pick up House seats in 2018. The vote in the Senate will be dicey, and a major battle will brew. But if our leadership stands behind it, the bill will pass," predicted 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.nealasalburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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