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## Made in America Panel Prods Congress to Renew Trade Promotion Authority to give the President Greater Negotiating Power

Federal budget negotiations, tariffs, and the need to renew trade promotion authority 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).

Neal and Dr. Roffman each have a strong attachment to musical instruments, so they were disheartened to learn that Gibson guitar had filed for bankruptcy. Although Gibson could still recover under new management, it sent a cautionary tale about over-extending operations, which found Gibson making questionable investments.

The discussion segued to the folly of using tariffs to stimulate trade.

The first guest on Made in America was Justin Bogie from the Heritage Foundation, who lauded the Republican Study Committee for its fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, "A Framework for Unified Conservatism."

"In light of the recent budget-busting deal and projections of trillion-dollar deficits returning, the plan sends a strong message: A truly conservative budget is the answer to the unsustainable budget course the nation is on. The budget would balance in less than 10 years, reform Social Security, utilize reconciliation to make changes to Medicaid, Medicare, and welfare programs, and would reshape the role of the federal government. The House and Senate Budget Committees should build on the RSC's work and pass a balanced budget that unlocks reconciliation this year."

Neal pointed out that Medicare and social security were originally created based on the longevity at the time of most Americans. But now that Americans are living longer, both programs are unsustainable. He suggested that wealthier people like himself, should be willing to give up their social security payments if it meant that people who really need the money would benefit.

Dr. Roffman proposed that the economic danger to people who depend on social security and Medicare, is comparable to the NAFTA agreement, which at the time it was passed, was appropriate for America's trade picture. But as the trade balance evolved, with advances in technology and the introduction of the "digital world," NAFTA no longer reflected changing trade dynamics, similar to the new technologies in health and medicine that impact longevity and quality of life when it comes to Medicare.

Bogie warned that Democrats will continue to use Medicare and social security to garner votes in the mid-terms.

"People will have to realize that at its current rate, by 2034 people will see 15-20 percent cuts in social security. Benefits will continue to erode, jeopardizing America's ability to prosper by continuing to add more debt from entitlements," proposed Bogie.

Neal segued to a discussion of the thousands of people leaving states due to the state's leadership, which has impacted the economy and job opportunities.

"Some 800,000 people are leaving New York state and California due to their flawed tax policies and wacky politicians. Corporations are leaving, taking jobs with them. Big cities like Chicago and Seattle are also losing populations," according to Neal.

"You know what they all have in common? They are states run by Democrats. Seattle has even passed a tax of 26 cents per employee when companies hit a certain income threshold. Amazon, headquartered in Seattle, could be forced to pay \$21 million in additional taxes. That's scary stuff that could see companies pulling stakes, even as jobs and people disappear," revealed Dr. Roffman.

Neal added that Seattle has also imposed a \$15 per hour minimum wage that will wipe out profits for fast food restaurants. He notes that fast food jobs were intended to be starter jobs for young people and not designed to support a family.

Meanwhile, in the U.K., members of parliament are suggesting that it would be "catastrophic" for the U.S. and U.K. to negotiate a trade agreement, which Neal and Dr. Roffman find ill-conceived since the U.K. has left the European Union.

In fact, some MPs in the U.K. are advocating on behalf of communism – a failed form of government wherever it was implemented.

The next guest on Made in America was Christine McDaniel, a Senior Research Fellow for the Mercatus Center, and heads the Program on the American Economy and Globalization. She writes about tariffs.

With that in mind, Neal noted the folly of President Obama picking winners and losers in the energy industry by favoring green energy companies. Neal wondered if Trump is doing the same thing with his proposed steel and aluminum tariffs.

"There are 140,000 Americans working in the steel industry, and 6.5 million other workers in manufacturing jobs that require steel or aluminum. The trouble is that when the steel and aluminum tariffs were proposed, there were no manufacturers at the table," revealed McDaniel, who added as the result of the tariffs, it could cost American consumers up to \$800 on new car purchases.

McDaniel doesn't like Trump picking winners and losers when it comes to tariffs, but believes that there is a role for tariffs in controlling China's trade behavior.

Neal reminded listeners about the negotiating powers that Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) affords the president to negotiate with the powers afforded the leaders of other nations. Obama was granted TPA in 2015 but never used it, while Clinton did not get TPA during his administration and Bush didn't get it for two years.

Providing additional thoughts on TPA was the final Made in America guest, Kevin Hernandez, Director of Policy at the LIBRE Initiative, who proposed that TPA gives the president and the executive branch the flexibility to negotiate freely, with the blessings of congress. Since it was enacted in 1974, it has been a powerful tool since it gives the president greater latitude to negotiate trade deals, but it can become a point of contention in congress. Hernandez hopes that when TPA is renewed in July, nobody will attempt to block it.

Neal and Dr. Roffman concluded the show by revisiting the population flight from states and some cities. They are both concerned that far left-minded new residents will continue to adopt the faulty policies that helped destabilize their state of origin – turning red states into blue states.

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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