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Made in America Panel Continues to be Bullish about American Job Growth and the Reduction in the Need for Food Stamps

The ongoing trade war with China, the solid employment picture, the rise of the "ghost employee," and the discrepancy between wage growth and job growth, 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 were chagrined to hear China boast that they were "free traders," when in fact they are the opposite.

"When dealing with China, the non-norm becomes the norm, when we expect China to continue to steal American Intellectual Property," according to Dr. Roffman.

Neal agreed, adding that America's entrepreneurs suffer when they try to go toe-to-toe against the government of China and their unscrupulous trade policies.

The first guest on Made in America was Mark Hamrick, Senior Economic Analyst for Bankrate.com, who expects the rate of 200,000 jobs created each month to continue.

"If the current unemployment rate of 3.8 percent drops one-tenth of one percent, it will equal the unemployment rate not seen since 1969. The danger is that tariffs will cause uncertainty among companies who may elect to cut back on capital spending, which would impact employment," according to Hamrick.

Dr. Roffman also is concerned that the Fed may elect to slow down the economy and raise interest rates, which could cause companies to slow down hiring.

"This could occur, but the Fed meets every 6 weeks to study data and make projections. Even Larry Kudlow's request to the Fed to let the economy continue on its current course won't have any impact, since the committee is non-partisan. Interest rates are abnormally low, but the Fed's policies could have an enormous impact on the economy," noted Hamrick.

Neal and Dr. Roffman were concerned that our current 2.7 percent wage increase rate has not kept pace with job growth, which negatively impacts the middle class, which has not seen a wage increase in decades. And if the economy slows down, it will hurt wage growth.

Neal noted that it's hard to find talent, and Dr. Roffman added that the workers available need to be trained.

"Who can forget Hillary's visit to West Virginia when she told coal workers that after she shut down

their mines they could be re-trained --which was ludicrous? And we can't overlook the 10,000 jobs that have been lost due to Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI will continue to cause jobs to be lost," according to Dr. Roffman.

The good news is that the volume of food stamps distributed is the lowest in eight years, when it soared under Obama, according to Neal.

The next guest on Made in America was Trisha Ridenour from The Employers Association, who revealed the rise of "ghost workers"—employees who disappear without giving notice, applicants that don't show up for job interviews, or applicants that accept a position but never appear.

Dr. Roffman was confounded by applicants that apply for a job, accept it, but never show up for work. "It's just common courtesy. Why even apply? And doesn't that hurt a worker's reputation," asked Dr. Roffman.

Ridenour agreed, noting that millennials are most guilty of becoming ghost employees. She suggested that employers are partly to blame by not following up with applicants and not staying in touch with employees.

Dr. Roffman and Neal were curious about references, wondering whether young employees appreciate the fact that their work history will follow them during their career. Many employers will be hesitant to hire someone that quit a job without notice.

The final guest on Made in America was Steve Mosher, a China expert and author of: "Bully of Asia: Why China's Dream is the New Threat to World Order."

Mosher maintains that China's aspirations to domination is in its five-thousand-year history of ruthless conquest and assimilation of other nations, brutal repression of its own people, and belligerence toward any civilization that challenges its claim to superiority.

"The naïve idealism of our 'China hands' has lulled America into a fool's dream of engagement with the People's Republic of China and its peaceful evolution toward democracy and freedom. China started the trade war 25 years ago and has accelerated cyberattacks and IP theft. If you can imagine a way to cheat, China will do it, and they have no compunction about hiring people for these tasks," reported Mosher.

Dr. Roffman and Neal were concerned that if the U.S. clamped down too hard on China, they would stop helping America with its negotiations with North Korea.

"It's not about having China at the negotiating

table with North Korea; it's keeping them away from the table. China needs to be put in a box so that America can negotiate without China's interference. Trump has called China's bluff and made it clear that America is back and won't back down," maintained Mosher.

"I visited China in 1979, when it was essentially the 'dark ages.' They were nowhere, so America stepped in to help them. And as thanks they tried to crush America. It's time to finally confront China," proposed Neal.

"We've been involved in an east versus west psychology. We can't interpret what China is willing to do, or fully understand their culture. They have a long-term plan to dominate the world. We are locked in a trade and manufacturing war with China that will last for years," according to Dr. Roffman.

Neal agreed, and is on board with Trump's hard stance against China. "It's time we went toe-to-toe with China."

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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