



Made in America Panel Pushes Republicans to Seize Their Mandate to Push Through a Workable Health Insurance Plan

Neal Asbury, together with co-host Dr. Rich Roffman, opened the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates) by applauding Trump for his strong commitment to products Made in America.

The first guest on Made in America was Vance Ginn, Ph.D., an economist in the Center for Fiscal Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, one of the nation's premier free-market think tanks.

Neal asked Ginn what American exporters can do to get the same free access to foreign markets that foreign exporters get to the American market – giving foreign exporters a big competitive advantage.

"We have to decrease regulations and taxes to make American manufacturers more competitive. Trump is heading in the right direction by cutting 16 regulations for each one added. We have to do something. The Economic Freedom of the World Index once had the U.S. slated at number 2. Now we're 16. We are 60th in the world when it comes to free trade," according to Ginn.

Dr. Roffman wanted to know why America lets other countries break the rules when it comes to exports, especially since we know that foreign consumers crave American-made products.

Neal agreed, adding that other countries discriminate against U.S. products. They know they can get away with it since America keeps changing trade negotiators and foreign countries know that if they don't get along with the current trade negotiators they probably will be gone after the next election. Meanwhile, the trade negotiators in other countries are seasoned professionals who know how to play the game.

Neal noted that Trump's push to support Made in America is obviously something he's passionate about. He understands that when American manufacturers have equal access to foreign markets, it creates American jobs and builds America's financial resources.

"The worst is that when foreign countries game the system, the money they generate is used to attack American manufacturers. Japan imports very little from the U.S., but wants to get big trade concessions on exports. They rip us off and they do it with impunity," according to Neal.

The next guest on Made in America was Mike Dow the former mayor of Mobile, Alabama, who helped Mobile become a major trading port, and built strong ties to Latin America, and

especially to Cuba.

"Mobile has become the gateway to Latin America. It took the vision of Mike Dow to recognize the strong ties Mobile has had historically with Cuba and helped build the economies in both places," noted Dr. Roffman.

Dow reminded listeners that Cuba and Alabama have been linked since the colonial days, and Cuba was a solid trading partner until the 1960s, when the embargo was implemented. Now Mobile wants to reopen those existing relationships.

"I recognized the value of our relationship with Cuba and we worked hard to make sure that our manufacturers didn't go offshore and stayed in Mobile to take advantage of the Cuban connection," added Dow.

The final guest on Made in America was Merrill Matthews, Ph.D., a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation, a research-based, public policy "think tank." He is a health policy expert and contributor at Forbes.com. He has been weighing in on the disaster that has surrounded the Republican plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

"In 2010 Democrats pushed through one of the most unpopular bills in recent memory. In 2017 Republicans took that same bill, the Affordable Care Act—which (1) had become even more unpopular and (2) helped Republicans taking over the House, then the Senate and then the White House—and completely botched the effort to repeal it," proposed Matthews.

He pegged the failed Republican approach to their inability to take advantage of their mandate to build momentum.

"Bill Clinton won the 1992 presidential election in part by promising sweeping health care reform. After inauguration, he set up a committee headed by Hillary that took six months to craft reform legislation. During those months, Clinton Care opposition forces began turning the tide of opinion. The momentum faded, and legislation that had seemed inevitable eventually became inconceivable. Barack Obama learned from those mistakes. He outlined some basic principles he wanted and handed the task to the Democratic-led Congress, which passed Obamacare in a squeaker," according to Matthews.

However, Matthews blamed the Republicans for their inability to capitalize on the momentum in 2017 and strike early by immediately passing the Obamacare repeal legislation that had

already passed the House and Senate in 2015, but which Obama vetoed. But Senator Rand Paul and a few others objected. They proposed doing repeal and replace at the same time. The only problem was Republicans didn't have a replacement plan.

Both Dr. Roffman and Neal are frustrated that in the seven years leading up to the election, the Republicans had a mere outline but failed to create a workable plan – even when the exiting plan penalized consumers for not buying Obamacare.

"This led to the false report that 19 million people were taxed by the IRS for failure to buy the plan. But in reality, 12 million people were exempted. So all the numbers were skewed to make the plan look worse than it was," concluded Matthews.

Neal and Dr. Roffman concluded the show by revisiting the potential inherent in establishing strong trading ties with Cuba. As the publisher of Cuba Trade magazine, Dr. Roffman has some insights into the market potential of Cuba,

"When I first went to Cuba, I didn't know what to expect. I still had reminders of the Cuban missile crisis and the embargo. But I learned that with the death of Fidel and his repressive regime, Raul has been more open to reform. As a result, some 500,000 new businesses have been created in Cuba. And far from the reports about the military getting all the revenue from tourism, the money is going to the very people that are building the tourist base and economy. This has given rise to a growing middle class. The embargo needs to end, and when it does, repressiveness will start to erode," 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.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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