



Made in America Panel Rues the Fact that Dissolved Manufacturing Council let Politics Stand in the Way of their Ability to Spur America's Economy

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 expressing disgust that members of President Trump's American Manufacturing Council quit because they put global correctness over policy.

"Not since President Reagan have we had such a pro-business leader in the White House. Yet, some of the nation's leading CEOs squandered an opportunity to drive policies that would spur business growth and create jobs. As a manufacturer myself, I would gladly have served on the council even if I didn't agree with everything that Mr. Trump advocates. It's a mistake to let politics trump policies," according to Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that the talk about race has derailed Trump's policies. The fact that these CEOs resigned only panders to a segment of the population that has no idea how the economy works. Instead of quitting, CEOs should have embraced the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the president.

"Even if they had differences, people still need to talk with each other instead of evading a conversation," proposed Dr. Roffman.

The first guest on Made in America was Horace Cooper, an adjunct fellow with the National Center for Public Policy Research, and co-chairman of the Project 21 National Advisory Board, and a legal commentator.

"CEOs quitting the Manufacturing Council is an example of someone cutting off their nose to spite their face. They missed a rare opportunity to meet with a president who was actually interested in advocating on their behalf. They could have had meaningful discussions about ways that the government could help them succeed," noted Cooper.

"They were more interested in social correctness instead of pushing forward ideas to build American industry," proposed Dr. Roffman.

Neal noted that the stock market is up 19 percent since the election, meaning that companies were making more money and rewarding stockholders, employees and customers. Yet, they turned their back on this president who has made them look like heroes.

"Lots of people were looking for solutions to the anti-business tactics of the Obama administration. They were looking for a signal that things had changed, and Trump looked like that solution. Entrepreneurs, in particular, were looking

for a sign that they could get off the sidelines and could start investing in their business. When the economy starts recovering, it raises all ships," maintained Cooper.

Neal is astounded that people can't see the way that their 401ks are suddenly gaining value, and pension funds are growing. But Trump gets no credit for any of this.

"We have a pro-business president in power. He's reducing regulations and promoting cheaper energy. But the mainstream media is driving the discussion and ignoring the fact that Trump is the most pro-business president since Reagan," suggested Dr. Roffman.

Neal agreed, adding that Amazon has raised more money in a bond sale than the GDP of Belarus. And Apple stock had hit an all-time high, while Taiwanese's Foxconn is opening a second U.S. manufacturing facility. And most importantly, we're seeing the biggest corporate growth in 6 years.

The next guest on Made in America was Monica de Bolle from the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who weighed in on NAFTA by suggesting that the agreement can be modernized only if President Trump's zero-sum "America First" agenda is replaced by one that seeks to benefit all three countries and improve their competitiveness in an increasingly competitive global economy.

"All three parties in NAFTA – America, Mexico and Canada – understand that an agreement signed in 1993-94 needs some refinement. But the U.S. went into these negotiations by proclaiming that NAFTA is a failure – not a good way to begin negotiations. But the U.S. overlooks the enormous benefits that NAFTA has had for U.S. agriculture. And it also wasn't helpful that the U.S. maintained that they were looking for the best deal for the United States; ignoring the other two parties," detailed De Bolle.

Neal, a fan of NAFTA, since his companies trade with Mexico, understands that Trump needs to back up his promise to voters that he would renegotiate NAFTA. But Neal warned that if America gets too aggressive, import prices will rise, creating higher prices for American consumers.

The final guest on Made in America was Ray Keating from the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, who really wants to see President Trump succeed in addressing China's notorious theft of intellectual property.

"While this has been a long problem,

solutions are not forthcoming. The U.S. has to take into account that China is America's second largest importer, and America's third largest export market. So taking on China needs some tact. America should drive home the point that it would benefit China to crack down on intellectual property theft if they want to encourage more American companies to invest in China, but U.S. companies are hesitant to subject their trademarks to theft," proposed Keating.

Neal, who owns a patented brand marketed in China, has seen it stolen by at least 20 Chinese companies, without any consequences.

"I think we're living in the Twilight Zone. Paranoia has gripped the country, and it has motivated good people to do bad things. The events in Virginia are really a criminalization of history. Where does it stop?" asked Dr. Roffman.

Neal agreed, proposing that if we take the Virginia rational at face value, do we rename Washington D.C. because he kept slaves? Or rip up the Constitution since Jefferson was also a slave owner?

Dr. Roffman concluded with the thought that toppling Robert E Lee's statue doesn't accomplish anything.

"Were applying 18th century values to the 21st century," suggested 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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