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Made in America Warns that an Unstable North Korea is Dangerous to Asia and the United States

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 sorrow for the victims of the Las Vegas concert shooting, and wondering what can be done to prevent a recurrence of this horrific crime.

The first guest on Made in America was John Negroponete, currently a J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington University. Prior to this appointment, he served as a research fellow and lecturer in international affairs at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, United States Deputy Secretary of State, and the first ever Director of National Intelligence. From 1981 to 1996, he had tours of duty as United States ambassador in Honduras, Mexico, and the Philippines.

"North Korea's atomic weapons program poses a great threat to the world, especially to South Korea and China. Keep in mind that the Korean War never ended; it just lead to an armistice. The Soviet Union and China supported North Korea, but now China must help denuclearize the Korean Peninsula for its own good. They have made a start by siding with the U.S. in condemning North Korea during a U.N. Security Council vote. They understand that if North Korea collapses, they would be inundated by refugees," according to Ambassador Negroponete.

Negroponete does not believe that a military solution is the way to go. Even if the U.S. tried to eliminate all missile threats, they would be unable to singularly knock out all of North Korea's retaliatory capacity.

The discussion turned to the Iran deal, which President Trump has characterized as the "worst deal ever made by the United States."

"Even when the Iran deal was negotiated, many Republicans were unhappy with the terms, since it did little to end Iran's support of extremist groups in the Middle East. Now if Trump wants to bow out of the deal, it still must go back to congress where they have 60 days to renegotiate," according to Negroponete.

Neal and Dr. Roffman segued to a conversation about the rising power of Amazon and Jeff Bezos, and how Amazon is redefining retail in the U.S.

"While everyone else is moving toward e-tail, Bezos is moving back to brick and mortar stores. The amazing thing is that Amazon has been losing money for years, but Amazon's shareholders continue to throw money at Bezos, even if Amazon

isn't profitable. He is really held to a different standard. While other companies are expected to show quarterly profits, Bezos isn't under that pressure," according to Neal.

Dr. Roffman added that Bezos operates in a "rarified" atmosphere similar to Elon Musk and has created a unique structure whereby Amazon takes on manufacturing, distribution, and intellectual property. Dr. Roffman warns that this structure could be very risky.

The next guest on Made in America was Adam Brandon from FreedomWorks, who notes that we have had Obamacare since 2010, and we have not had major tax reform since 1986.

"Doing anything on Obamacare through reconciliation, which only requires 51 percent, hasn't worked. Now Republicans have widely proclaimed their intent to pass tax reform this year, and they are behind schedule. There was an ambitious timeline, and it has been delayed multiple times. Now Republicans' backs are up against the wall," proposed Brandon.

Brandon frequently opens his lectures asking people to define a Republican. The answers are usually fuzzy.

Brandon is frustrated to hear Feds predict a 3 per cent growth in GDP if tax reform is passed. If it's at 2 1/2 percent now without any reform, if tax reform is passed, it should boost the GDP to 4 percent, and add \$22 trillion to the economy. The key is dropping the corporate tax rate to 20% and continuing to eliminate excessive regulatory laws, which will spur manufacturing growth and create jobs.

The final guest on Made in America was Wayne Crews from the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who agreed with Neal's assessment that U.S. regulatory laws cost the U.S. economy \$2 trillion a year.

"The total could even hit \$4 trillion. I like President Trump's plan to eliminate two regulatory laws for each new one enacted, and essentially freeze all new regulations. And best of all, the net cost to our debt should be zero. We are seeing the administration clean out the regulatory laws that were dumped into the pipeline. Trump's unified agenda is a breakthrough, mandating that all agencies have a cap on regulatory spending. It's the most aggressive move since Reagan," recounted Crews.

Dr. Roffman noted that this is helping to boost the economy and accelerate the stock market, which is seeing the biggest rally ever—up 24% since the President's election.

Crews reminded listeners that the two-for-one swap out on regulatory laws isn't new. In fact Virginia Democrat Mark Warner proposed a one-to-one ratio on regulatory laws.

"This may prove the basis of a bi-partisan agreement on regulatory reform. There should be no excuse for both parties to embrace regulatory reform," maintained Crews.

Dr. Roffman and Neal segued to a discussion on the amazing rally of the stock market.

"It could hit 23,000, fueled by a strong 24% increase," according to Dr. Roffman.

Interestingly, while the stock market is rising, the number of family farms in the country is dropping rapidly.

"Family farms were once the backbone of America, but they have been snatched up by large agricultural conglomerates, and even by foreign investors. And the lack of capital for small farms due to the Dodd-Frank bill and existing Death Tax regulations, hasn't helped," noted Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, proposing that the U.S. could help by raising the prices of farm products, and opening up foreign markets. Cuba alone represents a potential \$2 billion market for U.S. farmers.

The discussion turned once again to rising healthcare rates, which the New York Times estimated could rise by 50 percent.

"Knowing this, how could Republicans offer a healthcare option that is perceived worse than Obamacare?" asked Dr. Roffman.

Both Neal and Dr. Roffman ended the show on a positive note. People are feeling good about the economy; and holiday consumer spending is expected to increase by 6 percent.

Each week Neal Asbury' 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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