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Made in America Panel Predicts a Surprising Red Wave During Mid-Terms

The progress being made on trade negotiations; the passing of the USMCA in place of NAFTA; the trade stalemate with China; and the potential of a red wave rejuvenated by the Kavanaugh hearing, 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 proposed that it might take some time before he can embrace the NAFTA replacement name as USMCA, while Dr. Roffman noted that it sounds too similar to the Marine Corps' USMC. But both agreed that it was welcome news that our leading trade partner Canada was restored as a favored partner.

The first guest on Made in America was Ed Mills, Public Policy Analyst for Raymond James, who believes that while USMCA is an awkward moniker, it will be easier to get the agreement approved by congress than by renaming it NAFTA2.0.

"One of the under-appreciated parts of USMCA is a stipulation that USMCA partners cannot trade with countries with a non-market economy unless the U.S. approves the deal. This is squarely aimed at China, which has a non-market economy," noted Neal.

Mills agreed, suggesting that the end game for USMCA is putting collective pressure on China to amend their ways if they want to trade with USMCA partners. This will isolate China if they don't agree to trade terms.

"One of the real benefits of the new trade deals is that Trump is getting traditional trade partners back in the fold. The key will be to leverage America's global energy leadership. Our dominance in oil, natural gas, and coal will dig into the economy of Russia, Iran and China. If China wants energy supplies, they will have to make concessions to the U.S.," proposed Mills.

Dr. Roffman concurred, noting that advancing America's energy dominance is the key to gaining leverage when negotiating with China.

"What we need to see is when America and China go head-to-head, who will blink first," maintained Mills.

Neal noted that as a result of the tariff battles, one of the key retailers that sells Neal's products warned that the retailer does not expect his company and others to boost prices to pay for the new tariffs on their products.

"It all starts with China's manipulation of their currency. This allows China to keep its export prices

low so that it appears that China is giving American consumers a break on pricing. This puts American exporters at a disadvantage since their prices will appear to be too high for Chinese consumers," contended Neal.

"China and America are playing a global game of chicken," quipped Dr. Roffman.

The next guest on Made in America was Mark Hammrick, a senior economic analyst from Bankrate.com, who reacted to Neal's assessment that exports create five times more jobs than imports; and that these jobs are full-time, good paying jobs.

"We can see the unemployment rate as low as 3.5 percent, the lowest since 1969. Some 183,000 jobs were created in September. It's logical that many people pin the employment outlook to Trump's tax rate and controlling regulations. It also helps that the U.S. economy and global economy are strengthening," noted Hammrick.

Dr. Roffman agreed, pointing out that economists are proposing that we're seeing a remarkably improved outlook for the U.S. economy. Even Jamie Diamond of JP Morgan Chase, not a Trump fan, credited Trump for the improvement since 2016.

Hammrick is somewhat concerned that the tariff battles and the dispute with China could cause the stock market to slide downward.

The final guest on Made in America was former Trump Campaign Advisor, Michael Caputo, who is seeing the potential for a red wave during the mid-terms instead of the blue wave that is expected by the Democrats. The Kavanaugh hearing debacle has re-energized Republican voters, and Caputo sees the reemergence of the Silent Majority that elected Nixon along with the "deplorables" who elected Trump.

Neal is concerned that if the Democrats take back the senate, they will begin impeachment proceedings against Trump and include Kavanaugh, as well.

Dr. Roffman thinks this would be disaster for the country, and notes that Trump, with a 50 percent approval rating, has never been more popular among his base of supporters.

"The mid-terms really come down to 35 congressional districts that are in play. What is helping to be competitive for Republicans in those districts is the strength of the economy and the optimism expressed by the business sector, which at a 10-1 margin, supports Trump and his tax cuts. The Democrats have lost touch with their own party, and been some of the red state Democrats

are being perceived among the deplorables," suggested Caputo.

Neal agreed, noting that the New Jersey race is tightening after Booker (a.k.a. Sparticus) alienated many voters during the Kavanaugh hearing, and was heard proclaiming that it doesn't matter if Kavanaugh was guilty or not. "It's all about the spectacle."

"What happened to the idea that people are presumed innocent? It has come down to the interpretation of the truth. It's all about the agenda," proposed Dr. Roffman.

Neal was sickened by the perception that Kavanaugh doesn't have the temperament to be a Supreme Court justice because he had the temerity to fight back against false claims.

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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