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Made in America Panel Bullish on the Caliber of Trump's Cabinet Appointees

Host Neal Asbury, together with co-host Dr. Rich Roffman, opened their nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by some 70 affiliates) by welcoming KZWY-FM, Sheridan, Wyoming as the newest station airing the program. Neal also is welcoming in 2017 with a new sense of optimism, missing during the eight-year Obama term when entrepreneurs received no support.

The first guest on Made in America was Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg from the National Federation of Independent Business, who shared Neal's frustration that despite the fact that half of all private sector jobs are created by small businesses and that half of GNP is attributed to small businesses, the Obama administration has done nothing but put roadblocks in the way of independent businesses. Small business is the R&D for our economy.

"The optimism index among our members was at 95 percent, but with the election, it is now at 102 percent. We finally have some management experts in Washington. The business community is very optimistic. We are going to see some hiring and renewed capital investment, which will really fuel our economy," according to Dunkelberg.

Co-host Dr. Rich Roffman cited a Rasmussen study that found that 47 percent of American workers think America's best days are yet to come. The momentum is back and people are more hopeful than they have been in eight years.

Neal was glad that Trump has announced a \$1 trillion infrastructure building program, but wondered if it will come to pass.

"The spending will take place over five years, but it will take time for congress to allocate the funds and for states to weigh in on their needs. But it will be a big job creator. Where we really need this commitment is in the building industry where there is a shortage of trained workers, which is slowing down new home construction," noted Dunkelberg.

Dr. Roffman proposed that the best way for this to happen is a public-private partnership, which has worked well in Florida and could work in other states.

Neal and Dr. Roffman segued to a discussion on President Obama's sudden burst of energy to pass more unpopular regulations, ignoring the fact the voters and even his own

party rejected his policies resorting to executive orders to get anything enacted.

Dr. Roffman wants to see Obama back-away from any programs that could imperil our domestic energy policy, starting with Obama's ban on drilling in the Arctic and in the Atlantic Ocean.

"We hear over and over that the energy sector is where so much job creation occurs. In fact one-third of all energy created is used by U.S. manufacturers. Our cheap energy prices make America more competitive," noted Neal.

The next guest on Made in America was Don Boudreaux, a professor of economics at George Mason University, who suggested that American jobs are not lost when foreign companies increase imports to the U.S, instead "jobs are lost to fellow citizens – in two ways. First, it is the spending decisions of fellow citizens that determine when particular jobs are created and when they are destroyed. Second, the job lost by 'Smith' is replaced with a new (and likely very different) job filled, if not by Smith, then by Smith's fellow citizen 'Jones.' So when someone complains about losing his or her job 'to imports,' it is right to note that protecting that job necessarily requires that fellow citizens' freedoms be curtailed and fellow citizens' economic well-being be reduced. Protection necessarily shrinks the spending power of countless fellow citizens."

Boudreaux proposed that protectionism also destroys the actual jobs of many other fellow citizens (for example, jobs in domestic machine-tool factories that disappear because steel tariffs take a bite out of domestic machine-tool production) and destroys the job prospects of still other fellow citizens (for example, retail-store-management jobs that never materialize because tariffs on consumer goods reduce consumers' demand for such goods).

The final guest on "Made in America" was Thomas A. Hemphill, PhD., professor of strategy, innovation and public policy at the University of Michigan-Flint, who brought a perspective to the show that was embraced by Neal Asbury, a manufacturer: "Manufacturing's greatest days lie ahead."

"The key to America's manufacturing leadership is our cheap sources of energy, especially our 100-year supply of natural gas, which is 30 percent cheaper than oil. We can

compete with the world based on our lower energy costs. But we need to lower our corporate tax rate from 35 percent to Trump's proposed 15 percent level, but even at 25 percent, it would be meaningful," maintained Dr. Hemphill.

Dr. Roffman notes that we should stop looking at China as a cheaper place to conduct business. A large Chinese auto glass manufacturer is moving his \$600 million operation to the U.S. to avoid China's exploding tax rates, and to avoid potentially higher tariffs.

Neal and Dr. Roffman ended the show by wondering if they will be able to continue their cronyism report, hoping that under President Trump, cronyism will be a thing of the past.

"I'm hoping that based on the quality of his proposed cabinet, we will have a nation of winners, instead of losers, who know how to conduct ethical business," suggested Neal.

Dr. Roffman concurred, pointing to Carl Icahn as the type of appointee who knows and understands how to conduct business.

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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