



## Made in America Questions Whether Lock Down was the Correct Response to Covid-19

While retail seems to be recovering, the hospitality and tourism sectors are slow to re-open; the safety of the cruise industry has been unfairly treated in the media despite the fact that the cruise industry takes extraordinary measures to protect passengers and has on-board medical facilities; Tritan Software, which tracks contact and infection data is the key to protecting cruise passengers; it's critical to reopen the cruise industry since it contributes \$54 billion to the economy and employs some 350,000 workers; the job market is improving very slowly, while unemployment numbers are coming down each month; it's going to be difficult to recover the wealth destruction caused by the shut down; the solution to reopening is a reliable Covid-19 vaccine; the fate of Trump's re-election will be determined in large part by the way that voters analyze the Covid-19 response; Alex Berenson's book *Unreported Truths about COVID-19 and Lockdowns: Part 1* was initially turned down by Amazon until Elon Musk stepped in; the book raises the question whether the national response to the Covid-19 was an overreaction and should have concentrated on nursing homes and at-risk age groups; Covid-19 has been hyper-politicized to make Trump look bad in the media; Japan and Sweden never locked down their economy and didn't have a spike in Covid-19 cases; it's now all about the economy and letting people get back to a normal work and social environment if they follow health directives, were among the topics discussed by Neal Asbury and Dr. Rich Roffman on the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates and globally on the Armed Forces Network).

Neal began the show by recognizing improved retail numbers and recognizing that foot traffic numbers are at the same level as before Covid-19. Yet, the restaurant and bar sectors continue to suffer, as do the hospitality and tourism sectors.

The first guest on Made in America was Andrew Carricarte, president of Tritan Software, which handles management of health care systems for 97% of all cruise lines.

"The CDC is still waffling about when the cruise industry can re-open, but the three-month shutdown has really been devastating. The economy took a \$54 billion hit from uncollected cruise revenues and it affected 350,000 workers.

What is underappreciated about the cruise industry is that they take extraordinary safety measures, having onboard medical facilities and telemedicine capabilities. Yet the industry is singled out for unprecedented scrutiny for the number of Covid-19 cases reported," according to Carricarte.

He notes that Tritan is the cruise industry's #1 provider of Health Information and Incident Management software platforms, working with 97% of cruise companies and has a years-long relationship with the CDC.

The next guest on Made in America was Mark Hamrick, Bankrate.com's Senior Economic Analyst, who revealed that new claims for unemployment benefits remain elevated at 1.5 million but have declined for 11 straight weeks. But the decline of just 58,000 feels less like an improvement than what we've seen in previous weeks.

"Like the threat posed by the virus, we must not become complacent about the level of human suffering associated with the economic downturn simply because of its persistence. The wealth destruction due to the Covid-19 has been devastating. We can't replace the lost income. We must continue to be cautious and really can't completely re-open the economy until we have a reliable vaccine," according to Hamrick.

The final guest on Made in America was Alex Berenson, a former reporter for The New York Times and the author of several thriller novels and a book on corporate financial filings. He recently made news when his book *Unreported Truths about COVID-19 and Lockdowns: Part 1* was initially turned down by Amazon until Elon Musk stepped in and convinced Amazon CEO, Jeff Bezos, to offer the book on their publishing site.

"I was really surprised that Amazon refused to offer my book. While it is critical of the Covid-19 response, the data I used came directly from the CDC. Instead of shutting down everyone, the government should have concentrated on taking measures to protect nursing homes and the at-risk age population, which accounted for the majority of Covid-19 related deaths. I don't want to take the pandemic lightly, but with proper precautions we didn't have to shut down the economy. Japan and Sweden didn't shut down their economies, and while they had some deaths, it wasn't treated as direly like it was in most of Western Europe and in the U.S.," proposed Berenson.

Dr. Roffman maintained that the figures quoted by the media didn't reflect what was actually going on.

"I really admire Alex's writing because he brings an interesting point of view to important issues," opined Dr. Roffman.

Neal noted that when it comes to the Covid-19 response, it's all about its impact on the economy. Neal noted that when it comes to the Covid-19 response, it's all about its impact on the economy.

"The stock market is unplugged from the rest of the economy. It is marching to its own drum. But things are turning around, and people are slowly returning to work. People can't wait to return to normal by traveling and meeting socially," proposed Neal.

"No matter what happens going forward, even if we identify new cases, we can't shut down the economy again. People won't stand for it. We're all ready to return to normal life," concluded 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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