



Made in America Panel Urges Congress to Give Small Businesses Fair Access to Government Contracts

The coronavirus represents a global threat that could impact millions of people and impact the economy of many countries, especially China; Eisenhower's fear of a military industrial complex was well founded and is actually happening today; the Defense Department has been in bed with large military contractors like Lockheed for years, shutting out deserving small businesses and costing billions of dollars to taxpayers without creating the promised jobs; entrepreneurs, the backbone of our economy, are being shut out of large government contracts; Bernie Sanders is climbing in Democratic polling, to the chagrin of Democratic elites; it is confusing that black politicians are supporting Biden, when he and Obama gave them little support, 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 globally on the Armed Forces Network).

Neal and Dr. Roffman began the show with concerns about the coronavirus, recalling the SARS virus in 2003 that went from being an unknown virus to infecting 8,000 people within a year. They are concerned that in addition to the health concerns, it could roil markets globally.

The first guests on Made in America were Lloyd Chapman and Karl Olson from the American Small Business League, that announced that a federal judge in San Francisco has ordered the Department of Defense to disclose key records shedding light on whether big defense contractors like Lockheed Martin complied with laws requiring them to subcontract to small businesses, which could create millions of new jobs.

"Small businesses create 98 percent of net new jobs in America but are being cheated out of defense dollars. The large favored prime contractors haven't complied with the Small Business Act for decades. The public needs to know if they're getting the share of Pentagon dollars that they deserve and that Congress intended when it passed the Small Business Act. A 2015 Pentagon study which showed that under the Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan "Test Program," subcontracts to small businesses had been cut in half, from 46 percent in 1995 to 24 percent in 2014. Small businesses were supposed to get 23% of these contracts, but only received 3 percent, shutting off 2 million new jobs and wasting billions of dollars," according to Chapman.

Neal inquired whether there are enough trained workers to fill the 2 million new jobs that could be created.

Chapman didn't think this was a problem,

and noted that once small businesses have equal access to contracts, it could create a \$350 billion shot in the arm to the U.S. economy.

Chapman recalled that the day before September 11, 2001, Donald Rumsfeld estimated that the Pentagon could not account for \$2.5 trillion in their coffers.

"The big contractors and the Defense Department want to keep the public in the dark about how they get and spend their money. Usually, when the client (the Defense Department) tells a contractor to jump, they ask 'How high?' Instead, Lockheed tells the Defense Department how high they should jump. We're talking about \$35 billion a year. This money should have been shared with small businesses. We have found that 97% of all federal funding for acquisition is shared with only 1% of firms. Most of these firms, like GE, pay no income tax. Yet, the main stream media chooses not to cover this story. Now, we hope they will," according to Chapman.

"It's not only collusion, it's un-American," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman noted that kickbacks could be rampant among contractors and government officials.

"The tragedy is that small businesses can not only do the work of big contractors, but for less money, higher quality and will generate millions of new jobs. Boeing sent a rocket to space that failed. Tesla successfully sent a rocket into space that has circled the sun. Entrepreneurs are passionate about what they do, but it's hard to compete head-to-head against the global power structure. Sometimes bigger isn't best! It's the swamp," opined Dr. Roffman.

The discussion turned back to the coronavirus, which is putting thousands of people at risk in China, and even more, around the globe.

"Can you imagine isolating Manhattan?" asked Neal, who like Dr. Roffman, had to pass a short medical exam before they were allowed to enter and leave China during the SARS outbreak.

The discussion segued to the Democratic primaries, where Bernie Sanders is pulling ahead of the pack, despite the fact that the Democratic elite, like Hillary Clinton, does not like him.

"The Democrats are going after their own candidates. But what is their platform? And how can someone like Joe Biden, who did nothing for blacks while serving with Obama, is getting so much black support? It's a throwback to the War on Poverty, which spent \$22.3 trillion that did virtually nothing for African Americans," recalled Dr. Roffman.

Neal had reservations about Biden as a moderate. "What does that mean? He wants to pay reparations because blacks have lost jobs to illegal immigrants. Where is that money going to come from? I hope not from taxpayers," noted Neal.

And the discussion about Democrats isn't complete without revisiting Obamacare. "People didn't know that Obamacare doesn't mean you're going to have healthcare. And let's not forget about the Sanders promise to absolve students from paying back their school loans. Is it any wonder that people are demanding that Bernie refund all the money they already paid on their school loans?" asked Dr. Roffman.

The show ended with Neal talking about "mini-Mike," a reference to Mike Bloomberg, "who also has mini-ideas."

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.

<http://www.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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