



Made in America Panel Warns about America's Loss of Privacy Due to Surveillance Capitalism

Residents increasingly migrating out of states due to taxes, regulations and job loss; the continued folly of pushing the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour, especially its impact on full-serve restaurants; the dangers of surveillance capitalism on our personal privacy; the rise in AI and robots to replace unskilled workers; misperceptions about the GDP and economic growth; and the unsettling rise in the national debt, 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 the Armed Forces Network).

Neal and Dr. Roffman began the show by reviewing the steady migration of residents from states burdened by high taxes, regulatory pressures and the dwindling job market. People are flocking out of California to Nevada, and people from New York are flocking to Florida.

"The trouble is that people from liberal states like California are bringing their progressive attitudes to Nevada, impacting the political balance," according to Dr. Roffman.

The first guest on Made in America was Mark J. Perry, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, and a professor of economics and finance at the University of Michigan's Flint campus. He is best known as the creator and editor of the popular economics blog Carpe Diem.

Perry concurred with the opinions of Neal and Dr. Roffman regarding state-to-state migration.

"Even Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's mother moved out of New York, where Congressman Cortez has made enemies of many New Yorkers for her anti-business stance, which saw Amazon pull out of a deal that would have generated 25,000 jobs and add \$47 billion to New York's economy. People vote with their feet, and when they don't like what they see, they move. The \$15 an hour minimum wage is killing full service restaurants, which have laid off employees and raised prices to pay for the added labor costs. There has been a two percent decrease in the restaurant business in New York as a result of the minimum wage," according to Perry, who noted that during the last 3 months of 2018, New York lost 4,000 full-service restaurant jobs.

Dr. Roffman noted that raising the minimum wage holds untold consequences.

"When the government gets involved in price controls, they have a miserable history of failures. The minimum wage goes back to the 1930s, and ever since, people wind up losing the money they

were supposed to make under a minimum wage," maintained Perry.

As a successful entrepreneur, Neal knows full well what happens when labor costs rise by 35-40 percent. Costs have to be passed onto customers and workers will be forced to be more productive.

"Seattle wants to raise the minimum wage from \$15 to \$18 per hour. That equates to a \$40,000 salary for an entry level position for an unskilled worker. That just won't work. The market should decide wages, not the government. Wages are forcing people in California to move to Texas, potentially turning a red state to a purple one," proposed Neal.

The next guest on Made in America was John Whitehead an attorney and author who has written, debated and practiced widely in the area of constitutional law, human rights and popular culture. He established The Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit civil liberties and human rights organization located in Charlottesville, Virginia. His new book is entitled "Age of Tyrannical Surveillance: We're Being Branded, Bought & Sold for Our Data," which proposes "that if you have been to a political rally, a town hall, or just fit a demographic a campaign is after, chances are good your movements are being tracked with unnerving accuracy by data vendors on the payroll of campaigns. And your phones, televisions and digital devices are selling you out to politicians who want your vote."

"AI is running everything now. The FBI can listen in on any phone call without your knowledge. Meanwhile, companies like Google and Facebook are making billions of dollars by selling your personal data. It's known as surveillance capitalism," according to Whitehead.

Dr. Roffman added that it's all done through algorithms that allow companies to steal personal data. "Everything is available, which is scary."

Whitehead related that Ancestry.com, a benign outlet for tracing your genealogy through DNA samples, is selling these DNA samples to law enforcement. And police can park outside your home and using new technologies steal information off your computer.

"Within five years, AI will allow the human brain to link directly to computers. While AI isn't perfect, since it's designed by flawed humans, it's getting closer. Law enforcement is conducting pre-crime analysis, adding some 8 million people to a database simply because they one day might commit a crime," revealed Whitehead.

Dr. Roffman noted that it sounds like the plot from the film Minority Report, where PreCrime, a specialized police department, apprehends criminals

based on foreknowledge provided by three psychics called "precogs."

If you have any doubts about surveillance capitalism, Whitehead noted that Amazon's Jeff Bezos is in line to receive \$10 billion from National Defense for access to their database.

The final guest on Made in America was Joe Barnett, a Research Fellow for the Heartland Institute, who proposed that data coming out of the government is misleading and even incorrect.

Barnett notes that last year's strong global growth, fiscal stimulus and easy financial conditions had helped boost the US economy.

"Many analysts are predicting that the economy will slow down in 2019, most of it attributed to the unresolved trade deal with China. This has introduced uncertainty to the economy, which stalls growth, especially for entrepreneurs," according to Neal.

"It's amazing people have forgotten Obama's claim that a 2 percent rise in the GDP is the new normal. We are growing at a rate closer to 4 percent, as a result of lower taxes and fewer regulations," proposed Barnett.

Dr. Roffman takes issue with media reports that U.S. household income has seen the biggest decline since the recession, which is simply not true.

All three agreed that tariffs are having an impact on the U.S. economy and is growing the trade deficit, but things could be much worse.

Finally, Neal and Dr. Roffman are deeply concerned about the nation's rising debt, which now sits at \$17.27 trillion and is rising. Yet, people are willing to embrace the Green New Deal, which could add \$93 trillion to the debt level.

"People need to remember that 'We the People' run this country, not politicians like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez," 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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