



Made in America Predicts Day of Reckoning Coming to Unions Over Forced Dues

The erosion of the Chinese-American trade talks and the battle over tariffs; the impact of the dominance of America in global energy exports on China, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela; support for Trump's hard-nosed negotiations with China despite some short term economic pain; Round Two of the Janus lawsuit against public unions over forced dues and its potential for reducing money to Democrats; and the bold entrepreneurial moves by Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Tesla's Elon Musk to build settlements on the moon and Mars, 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 exploring the erosion of the trade talks between America and China, and the repercussions of the 25% tariffs.

"I think it's laughable that China feigns anger over reneged promises, but Trump was right. China has misjudged America's resolve and its improving economy. I think they were anticipating that Trump would be gone and they were just buying time," proposed Dr. Roffman.

The first guest on Made in America was Dan Eberhart, Chief Executive Officer of Canary, one of the largest privately held oilfield services companies in the U.S., who proposed that Trump deserves credit for standing up to the Chinese, whose decades of unfair trade policies and outright piracy of intellectual property warrant a tougher stance from the United States and Europe.

"We should applaud Trump for advancing the issue, and his feisty approach plays well with his base. The president has made some free-trade Republicans, and even some Democrats, realize that a firmer hand with Beijing is needed to protect American business interests. But we have gone from a potential trade deal to a trade war, which is hurting both America and China with higher prices," according to Eberhart.

Dr. Roffman wondered if the U.S. should try harder to compromise on tariffs before it cuts more deeply for American and Chinese consumers.

"I think Trump is playing this right. Yes, there will be some short-term pain, but it's worth it. And America can weather the storm easier than China due to America's stronger economy. We simply must stop China's theft of IP and their illegal dumping of their steel into the U.S. market," maintained Eberhart.

Neal is concerned about the plight of farmers who are getting crushed by the tariffs imposed by

China on agricultural goods. And equally concerned that manufacturers are getting hammered on the cost of imported goods and components they need to complete their products.

"China is particularly vulnerable when it comes to energy. Although 10% of their cars are electric – more than those in U.S. – the electric power comes from coal. In fact, 70-80% of China's energy still comes from coal. They are in the process of building new refineries, where China is now building 80% of the new refineries worldwide. Meanwhile the U.S. is producing more oil than just about every country, acting as a disruptor in the supplies from Russia, China, Cuba, Venezuela, and Iran. Europe tried to do an end run, but failed," according to Eberhart, who added that as Venezuela's oil export market is shrinking, they are less able to afford to pay their military, which is propping up Maduro's government.

The next guest on Made in America was Jeffrey Schwab, senior attorney at Liberty Justice Center, whose organization is involved in a massive class-action lawsuit filed in Illinois that could force unions to refund hundreds of millions of dollars in agency fees paid by thousands of workers nationwide prior to the Supreme Court's landmark ruling last year in Janus v. AFSCME (the largest public-sector union in the country).

"That June 2018 decision barred public-sector unions from requiring nonmembers to pay the fees without obtaining their clear consent. It already has cost unions tens of millions of dollars in dues, though the ruling hasn't yet been applied retroactively to provide refunds to workers. Our argument is once something is deemed to be unconstitutional [in the civil context] – agency fees – then they're deemed to be retroactively unconstitutional. We're taking the position that those fees should be refunded to those nonmembers," proposed Schwab.

Neal questioned whether the case could go to the Supreme Court if the case is lost in Illinois' 7th circuit.

"The question is whether or not the union demonstrated good faith in its dealing with members. We don't think they have. They have tried to reverse the Janus ruling on a state level, and were successful in California and New York," noted Schwab.

Neal suggested that if unions have to refund dues, it will have an enormous impact on the ability of Democrats to raise election funds.

"It's a big deal. It may cost the Illinois union some \$2 million. But different agencies have different fees. But it's really going to cut into Democrats' fundraising ability," suggested Schwab.

Neal and Dr. Roffman, both advocates for right-to-work states, wondered if the trend will continue.

"We're seeing some creativity in that area, as some communities are passing their own right-to-work regulations. But we just lost a case in Lincolnshire, Illinois after unions successfully sued the community. And right-to-work zones have been deemed illegal in Illinois and New Mexico, which have a heavy union presence," noted Schwab.

Neal concluded the show by expressing anger that Boeing knew about the flaws in the software of their 737 Max, but were willing to gamble on the lives of passengers, as two planes crashed with a large loss of life.

Dr. Roffman agreed, saddened that an iconic company like Boeing, and known for their superior technology, was willing to overlook these fatal flaws.

Neal and Dr. Roffman segued to a discussion revolving Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Tesla's Elon Musk, wanting to colonize the moon and Mars respectively.

"Although its sounds daunting, it really reflects the best of American entrepreneurship – companies willing to take a gamble on an innovative idea. But why should they need to step in? Where is NASA?" asked Neal.

Dr. Roffman suggested that this is a natural and organic way to go. More and more private companies are supplanting government agencies like NASA. "That's part of America's new manifest destiny."

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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