



Made in America Warns Against Allowing COVID-19 to Derail Supply Chains

Another 3 million Americans have applied for unemployment benefits; hard to believe that 60 days ago America had the best economy since World War II; while the economy will not look the same as it did before COVID-19, we will see new opportunities and innovations, and a new breed of entrepreneur; it is critical that we encourage more kids to go into trades such as plumbing and carpentry; parents should be looking at vocational schools instead of colleges for their kids; manufacturing continues to be the nation's backbone; the Trump administration is the first one to endorse trade and vocational schools; we can't let the COVID-19 interfere with our supply chains; a UK-American free trade deal could start as early as January 1, 2021 and it will be an important piece of our global supply chain; we should back off attacking China over trade policies; trade is a complex and politically charged issue; the US will not be going back to its old way of doing business post-COVID-19; it is disgusting that some companies fraudulently received PPP funding, 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 with the sad news that 3 million more Americans applied for unemployment benefits, bringing total unemployment nationally to 20% of the labor force. "We have to get people back to work."

Dr. Roffman bemoaned the fact that just 60 days ago, the American economy was the strongest since World War II.

Neal noted that despite the depressed economy new opportunities will arise, fueled by entrepreneurial innovation.

The first guest on Made in America was actor John Ratzenberger, who enjoys the distinction of being among the top 10 highest-grossing Hollywood actors in history, but is also one of Hollywood's most outspoken advocates of manufacturing and skilled labor. Ratzenberger who grew up in Bridgeport, Ct., is the son of a truck driver father and a mother who worked at Remington Arms, and who earned a living as a carpenter.

"Made in America should be stamped on my forehead. We are the global leader in manufacturing. I'm an actor, but if Hollywood disappeared, it would be sad, but won't derail our economy. If we lost manufacturing,

the country could not survive. And that is tied to creating more trade jobs like plumbers and carpenters, who shouldn't be called blue collar, but essential workers," proposed Ratzenberger.

Dr. Roffman agreed, maintaining that people who earn degrees will need the help of auto mechanics, plumbers, and someone who can fix their HVAC, and who will probably be earning more money than many college graduates.

"I was a carpenter, so I value being a craftsman. I can get a job anywhere. In the 1800s, being a doctor wasn't even as important as being a trained craftsman in a Guild. Hollywood doesn't help. They portray craftsmen in movies like idiots," noted Ratzenberger.

Neal recalled talking to a high school senior who was being teased because she was boarding a bus with fellow students to pursue vocational occupations. "It was just so hurtful."

Ratzenberger applauded the Trump administration for supporting a national initiative to promote trade and vocational schools and recalled the time 30 years ago when schools phased out shop and vocational classes in high schools.

The next guest on Made in America was Dan Griswold, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, Hillsdale College, who is optimistic that the UK and America can start negotiating a trade deal beginning January 1, 2021, while reminding listeners that the UK is the world's fifth largest economy and is America's number one investment partner.

Dr. Roffman agreed that a trade deal with the UK would be a significant opportunity, recalling that during the 1980s and 1990s the UK was Miami's largest trading partner.

"The entire Brexit disaster had more to do with immigration than trade. Although the Brexit deal is dead, the UK is still part of the trade customs union, and still trading with the EU. But this stops the end of this year," according to Griswold.

Neal noted that there is a lot of anxiety over supply chains, especially those with China. "While our trade deals with China aren't perfect, we can't just tear them up."

Dr. Roffman agreed, suggesting that uprooting supply chains will have unintended consequences.

"Trade is a complex, politically charged issue. The U.S. is part of the global supply chain, and we have to come to the conclusion that we can't manufacture everything here. We need foreign components. The COVID-19 disaster has

shown us how vulnerable our global supply chains are," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman added that "globalization is unification. But we shouldn't expect to go back to the old ways of doing business. We need to prepare ourselves for the new realities."

Neal is angry that some companies fraudulently received PPP money and the fraud is likely to continue, depriving businesses that really need the funds from getting the money they need to survive.

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.

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