



Made in America Panel Proposes that it's Time to Reopen America and Support Our Small Businesses

There's a growing sense that the lockdown has gone on too long and it's time to take back control; another 2.4 million Americans have applied for unemployment benefits; people are losing their sweat equity and watching their American dream disappear; PPP money helped but it's about to run out and little of it reached the small businesses that need it; 13% of small business don't think they can survive due to the lockdown; it is critical that barriers to get new PPP money are reduced for small business; the primary focus of the economic recovery plan must be to help small business; it is a shame that so many people fraudulently received PPP money; people need to question whether bad management in some states exacerbated the economic impact of Covid-19; Governor Cuomo, who seems to get high marks for his management of New York State actually had many missteps which contributed to the length of the shutdown; we can't continue to wait for a vaccine before opening up the country; as we question the constitutionality of the prolonged shutdown, it's time for civil disobedience to force the opening of the country; while we need to open up the economy responsibly we can't wait any longer; the time has come to reopen America, 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 urging states to loosen restrictions, noting that Georgia and Florida have opened, and everything seems to be working fine.

"But we still have 2.4 million people who filed for unemployment. And we are largely ignoring the people struggling with depression and addiction," according to Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that as the lockdown continues, it is destroying the American Dream for many families. "They are losing the sweat equity they put into their businesses. But government bailouts aren't the solution. It's about dignity. Small businesses need help—but they need and want to go back to work," said Dr. Roffman.

The first guest on Made in America was Sally Greenberg, Executive Director of the National Consumers League, who reminded listeners that small businesses and entrepreneurship are the backbone of the American spirit and economy, creating over 1.9 million new jobs in 2015 alone. She is concerned that the first PPP payments did not reach the small businesses that need the

money for survival. She hopes that the new round of government help will be more successful.

"The House Democrats unveiled the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act --their proposal for the next phase of coronavirus relief. The nearly \$3 trillion piece of legislation would provide much needed financial assistance to state and local governments. But while this PPP eligibility expansion is a step in the right direction, we are concerned again it might miss some eligible and critically important businesses. At a time when we are seeing record unemployment numbers, the PPP needs to be about saving as many American jobs and businesses as possible," according to Greenberg.

Dr. Roffman agreed, maintaining that any federal funds must be allocated to help small businesses, and blames mismanagement by some states for exacerbating the impact of Covid-19 on their economies.

Both Neal and Dr. Roffman are wary that many companies received funds fraudulently and hope that better oversight takes place.

The next guest on Made in America was David Marcus, the New York correspondent for The Federalist, whose recent story demanding that New York City reopen, was a cover story sensation in the New York Post. It has sparked wide-ranging conversations about the need for Americans to practice civil disobedience to force states to reopen their economies.

"While Governor Cuomo received lots of praise for his handling of the virus, he had a number of missteps that prolonged the reopening of the economy and caused unnecessary deaths. New York is in a desperate situation," proposed Marcus.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that New Yorkers were ready and complied with the shutdown since they were promised upon reaching certain state and federal virus milestones things would reopen. But that pact was broken, as was the economy. "They kept pushing the goal posts farther back."

"I don't know when there will be a vaccine, so we can't just wait for that to happen before businesses can reopen. What right does the government have to say how we conduct our lives and our businesses? It's a civil liberty issue. It's time for civil disobedience. Let people reopen their businesses and get back to work, and face the consequences," maintained Marcus.

"I understand that the economy has to open up responsibly, but it may be too late for a lot of small, store-front businesses. This is really a constitutional issue. Does it make any sense for

states like Illinois to jail or fine people who want to emerge from the lockdown?" asked Neal, who proposed that it's the world we live in today.

Dr. Roffman is saddened that the American Dream is in peril for the millions of Americans who invested their lives in their small businesses, only to see them evaporate.

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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