



Made in America Panel Maintains that Reclaiming Free Trade is America's Global Heritage

The markets show no sign of being rattled as a result of impeachment investigations; Democratic presidential field is growing instead of getting tighter; the concerning ruling that a lawsuit can go forward against gun manufacturer Remington for the deaths in Sandy Hook; small businesses continue to thrive despite market uncertainties and trade questions; the announcement that Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are introducing an environmental bill that will replace fossil fuels with solar energy for public housing, 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, who characterizes the impeachment investigations as "Kabuki Theater," were pleased that the televised hearings have not rattled the markets. "Las Vegas odds makers give Trump the edge in the 2020 elections, especially if the Democratic presidential field can't settle on a frontrunner. Instead of cutting down the field, they have added two new candidates, including Michael Bloomberg, who really hasn't made much of a splash," according to Neal.

Dr. Roffman quipped that if you want to get on the Democratic ticket "all you have to do is stay at a Holiday Inn Express."

The first guest on Made in America was Dr. John R. Lott, Jr., an economist and a world-recognized expert on guns and crime, who founded The Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC), a research and education organization dedicated to conducting academic quality research on the relationship between laws regulating the ownership or use of guns, crime, and public safety.

"The suit brought by parents of kids shot at Sandy Hook against Remington, the manufacturer of the gun used in the shootings, is moving forward in Connecticut courts. While the suit is destined for The Supreme Court, it's too early for them to rule. This suit is really flawed. First, the shooter stole the gun from his parents, so he didn't purchase it. Second, the suit seeks to connect the motivation for the shooting to a violent video game where a look-alike gun is used is also flawed. Since the gun used in the video was not the weapon used in the shooting, it's a weak case," proposed Lott, who contended that gun control advocates want to press the suit because they are hoping to find incriminating evidence during the discovery phase.

Dr. Roffman opined that the suit is actually litigating emotion, not the case. "People forget that the shooter killed his mother, using a gun that she purchased legally."

To Dr. Roffman's point about litigating emotion, Lott sees the gun advocates wanting a jury trial where that emotion can play out.

"You can't escape the heartbreak of seeing 20 1st graders and six teachers gunned down at Sandy Hook. These mass shootings must stop. But as the NRA has said, guns don't kill people, people kill people. Beto O'Rourke advocated going door to door and demanding their guns – an idea that found him floundering in the polls, leading to his dropping out. But if you blame the guns, can you blame cars for a car crash? It has no stopping point," proposed Neal.

The next guest on Made in America was Raymond J. Keating, Chief Economist with the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council), a national nonpartisan, nonprofit small-business advocacy group. He also writes a weekly newspaper column for Newsday on Long Island. In addition, Keating runs his own small business – Keating Reports – that publishes a variety of analyses and newsletters.

Neal expressed concern that the impeachment hearings are overshadowing the country's ongoing good economic news. "Despite the noise, entrepreneurs are continuing to succeed – a sign of their resilience."

Keating agreed, noting that confidence in the economy is high, with small business very optimistic about the country's outlook.

"While most signs are optimistic, there is growing concern about the country's spiraling debt and about a potential recession. While recent polls show that 33% expect a downturn over the next 12 months, another 34% are somewhat worried about it. But in general, confidence remains high," according to Keating.

Dr. Roffman contended that any pessimism surrounding a possible recession is largely fueled by partisan negative media coverage.

"Jobs data continues to look very good, but sometimes this data can be manipulated. I'm keeping my eye on a drop in business investment and a stagnating GDP. But it shouldn't cause any deep concerns. We have to shore up our trade, since 40% of our economic growth comes from trade," noted Keating.

Neal, an exporter himself and free trade advocate, is hoping that Nancy Pelosi will keep her word that she's ready to have the House

vote on USMCA (United States Mexico Canada Agreement). But he remains deeply troubled by the lack of progress in our trade negotiations with China.

"I think Trump has gone down the wrong path on his negotiations with China. . . We can't let China dictate terms. The U.S. must reclaim its global heritage as the champion of free trade," noted Keating.

The discussion turned to the unlikely pairing of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who are proposing a \$180 billion initiative to replace all fossil fuels and instead install solar panels on the roofs of all public housing.

"It's a really weird relationship. I know one of Bernie's top campaign people who is a really good guy and very supportive of small business. So teaming with AOC is pretty strange. Not sure how this is going to work," maintained Neal.

"What could go wrong with this \$180 billion environmental plan that seeks to de-fossilize our energy supply in favor of solar panels? Remember Obama's Solyndra debacle that left taxpayers liable for \$535 million in federal guarantees? You know this program is ripe for cronyism," suggested 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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