



Made in America Panel Maintains that Student Debt is Out of Control and Requires Greater Oversight

The impact of spiraling student debt; the attack on free speech on college campuses; the lure of free everything for young voters; our trade war with France over digital taxes; optimism over the new USMCA; and the inherently unfair impeachment hearings, 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 revealing that U.S. student debt has hit \$1.15 trillion, with some 41 million owing money.

"Earning a four-year college degree isn't as valuable as it once was. Worse, where colleges were once breeding grounds for new ideas and free speech, campuses have become a place of intolerance for ideas in conflict with their own beliefs," according to Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that a great game is being played against students, who are unable to hear different sides of an issue and are paying for speakers booked to speak without their input.

The first guest on Made in America was Young America Foundation Spokesman, Spencer Brown, who takes issue with the Left's impossible and irresponsible proposal of student loan bailouts, and applauds U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who redefined Federal Student Aid as a "standalone entity—wholly and entirely separate from the U.S. Department of Education. This would set Federal Student Aid apart to operate more as the Federal Reserve does, less influenced by swings in Washington's power dynamics.

The Young America Foundation seeks to reach young people with conservative ideas. "We will defend conservative speakers that have been prohibited from speaking at colleges. We want to introduce conservatives to new generations," according to Brown.

Neal noted that in some campuses, like those in California, a liberal bias is expected, but even in Florida, we're seeing an anti-conservative movement.

"The trouble is that some administrators have unbridled discretion to decide who speaks on campus, and who doesn't. We think all students have the right to hear anyone they want," proposed Brown, who added that during the past 50 years, the opposition has been ratcheting up its interference.

Neal is concerned about the level of U.S.

student debt, and the Democrats' plan to eliminate all student debt.

Brown agreed, noting that graduates are still trying to pay off their student debt years after they graduated. "If they had gone to a trade school for two years, they would have been able to pay off their debt quickly since they would be making good money right after graduation. And like many young people, would be angry that they are paying for the education of college students who borrowed big money from the government and can't pay it back."

Dr. Roffman agreed, revealing that 43% of students who borrowed money are in distress and aren't likely to pay down the debt for years, if ever.

"We're facing the free stuff Democrats are offering to young people. It's enticing, but even some young people don't think it's a good idea. Student debt has become a political football. One of the real problems is that colleges continue to raise tuitions, piling on more student debt, knowing that the government will pick up the tab," noted Brown.

The next guest on Made in America was Richard Rubin, the U.S. tax policy reporter for The Wall Street Journal, who is watching the trade war between the U.S. and France over digital taxes.

"Over the past 50 years, companies could predict their corporate income taxes, but today the U.S. has serious concerns with proposals being discussed in the global rewrite of corporate tax rules. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has introduced a new idea that could complicate a deal over adapting the tax system for the digital economy," according to Rubin.

Dr. Roffman agreed, noting that the landscape has changed as brick and mortar stores are increasingly competing against virtual warehouses and the digital marketplace.

Rubin noted that over the past two years, major U.S. companies are grappling with new tax rates. The situation in France is an example. It will be interesting to see what formulas France uses to tax U.S. digital companies. But he is concerned that the France-U.S. negotiations can get out of hand, with each country adding new taxes and tariffs.

Dr. Roffman noted that France pays a minimum in tariffs to export wine to the U.S., so the U.S. is entitled to a digital tax for their digital offerings in France.

Neal expressed optimism that the House will ratify the USMCA, replacing NAFTA, which is outdated and doesn't reflect the changing world economy.

Neal and Dr. Roffman reviewed the impeachment hearings, which both agree are a foregone conclusion since the House will vote to impeach Trump.

"The Democrats want to get this over quickly, so it gets out of the headlines. The hearings are inherently unfair and the Democrats know it's a losing proposition for them," proposed Neal.

Dr. Roffman agreed, characterizing the hearings as "a sham," and suggesting that it's no coincidence that the Inspector General's report is due out Monday, the very day the formal impeachment charges will be revealed.

Neal predicated that if the economy stays strong, it is Trump's biggest advantage in the elections.

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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