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Florida Senate Candidate Marco Rubio Believes That Obama Administration is Eroding the Vibrancy of American Entrepreneurial Capitalism



Making a return visit to the nationally syndicated The Neal Asbury Show on WZAB-AM, Marco Rubio (R-FL) who served in the Florida House of Representatives and is currently running for the senate against the more moderate Republican governor, Charlie Crist believes that the Obama stimulus package was a bad idea and is "symbolic of everything wrong about U.S. politics."

Rubio detailed the three main weakness of the stimulus package: 1) it reflects short-term thinking; 2) it will dramatically expand the size of the federal government; and 3) it was passed by otherwise more astute members of Congress who were swayed by Obama's initial "rock star" image.

"The most troubling dimension of the Obama administration, especially after his embarrassing performance at the United Nations, is that he is sending a message to the world that America, historically considered the most exceptional country in the world, is no longer exceptional. In fact, we are being portrayed as a second class nation. That's not the country I was born in, and it's not the type of country I want my children to inherit," said Rubio, who is gaining momentum in most polls. "America is the only major nation in history not to use its power to conquer other people. The world is a safer place with America in it," he added.

He is equally troubled by the administration's naive approach toward Iran and is convinced that Obama does not have

the will to impose the meaningful sanctions against Iran that would force them to halt their nuclear program. Rubio supports continuing negotiations with Iran, with U.N. support, but is concerned that without any commitment by China and Russia, the sanctions won't work.

"The world must impose the economic sanctions that will hit Iran hard, and isolate Iran until it becomes a global pariah. There is too much at risk if Iran has nuclear weapons capabilities because it will destabilize the Middle East and pose an enormous threat to Israel. If the rest of the world won't work with us, we must be willing to force Iran's hand unilaterally, but only as a last resort," proposed Rubio.

Weighing in on the healthcare debate, Rubio thinks it's time to press the "reset" button on current proposals. He points the finger at insurance companies that have created expensive coverage that today's 30 million uninsured Americans just can't afford. He knows that the demand is there, but a privatized insurance system must be created that sets reasonable prices that are at the same level as health insurance purchased through employers so that all Americans can carry health insurance.

"The government shouldn't be controlling health insurance. The current proposals are essentially a redistribution of wealth, imposing penalty taxes on younger, healthier consumers to subsidize the care for older, sicker consumers. Why not let everyone pay the same price, but create a high risk pool that is separate from the regular system so that people who consume higher healthcare costs also pay more for it?," suggested Rubio, who also

wants to see stricter tort reform.

Rubio advocates that Americans must be able to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, so that established businesses today that once had their origins in a living room, can again flourish. He wants to ensure that entrepreneurs don't lose their spirit, and that barriers like "our insane tax code" don't keep entrepreneurs from starting new businesses.

"America's entrepreneurial capitalistic vibrancy is alive and well," concluded Rubio.

Also joining the show was Michael DiPaula-Coyle, who serves as Director at the U.S.-India Business Council. In that role, he acts as Deputy to President Ron Somers and oversees a broad management and policy portfolio, including digital economy, insurance and pensions, and media and entertainment.

DiPaula-Coyle underscored the importance of supporting the economic relationship between the U.S. and India. He pointed out the commonalities between the two nations; their multi-ethnic populations and both face common security threats from terrorists.



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"India has one of the world's fastest growing economies and is one of the biggest exporters to the American market. Considering that India did not open its economy to the world until 1991, it is understandable that India is behind other nations in trade, but India is open to the world's goods," said DiPaula-Coyle.

While he proposed that India is very pro-American and welcomes American goods and brands, he shared Neal Asbury's concern that the average Indian tariff on American goods is 40 percent (close to 60 percent with taxes and fees), which does not allow America to compete on prices. This becomes all the more untenable because Indian goods are tariff-free coming into the U.S.

DiPaula-Coyle knows that India must reform its economic policies and that the Indian government's grip on the country's affairs interferes with free trade. His organization, as well as the U.S. State Department, Department of Commerce and Trade Administration meet monthly with Indian officials to iron out differences and push for greater reforms.

One of the primary responsibilities of the U.S.-India Business Council is to help American exporters navigate the fractured Indian market. The Council assists with partnering U.S. companies with the right distributors, who can help with the red tape and paperwork. The Council maintains offices in both the U.S. and India, and works through the Commerce Department, which has greater resources and has expertise in promoting U.S. exporters. The U.S.-India Business Council can be reached at usibc.com. The Commerce Department site is at export.gov.

"India has a dynamic economy but needs to lower its trade barriers with the U.S. After all, there are more than 2 million Americans of Indian heritage, so

building an economic partnership with the U.S. is vital," added DiPaula-Coyle.

John Manzella, President of Manzella Trade Communications and a world-recognized author and speaker on U.S. and global business and Washington politics, joined the discussion as he does each week with his The Manzella Report. Manzella focused on the recent elections in Germany and offered a timely perspective on what they might mean for America.

Manzella suggested that the election's biggest loser was the left-leaning Social Democratic party, which scored its poorest results in a national election since WWII. On the other hand, he suggested that the biggest winner was the pro-business, pro-free market, Free Democratic Party, which scored its best results since WWII. He noted that the German election also gave Angela Merkel, of the centrist Christian Democrats, who will be serving a second four-year term as Chancellor. As a result, the Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats have secured a majority for a center-right coalition. Now, Manzella believes that Angela Merkel has an opportunity to do the tax cutting and deregulation that she campaigned years ago.

"But what's really interesting is the promise made by the leader of the Free Democrats, Guido Westerville, to significantly cut income tax rates across the board like Ronald Reagan did. If successful, this would make Germany's tax code among the most competitive in the industrialized world. And if successful, other European countries would almost certainly follow suit," proposed Manzella, who suggested that Germany isn't alone in its shift away from the left, and is likely to be followed by the U.K., France, Italy and Poland where once mighty center-left parties are all losing support.

The lesson, according to Manzella, is that America's shift to the left seems to fly in the face of today's global dynamics, which seems to indicate that left leaning economic policies don't work.

"Germany's election suggests that there is an economics lesson to be learned. And it's not the lesson the Obama administration has in mind," concluded Manzella.

The Neal Asbury Show tackles free trade and enterprise issues every Friday from 5:00 PM until 6:00 PM on WZAB-AM 880. For this show, Paul Anderson, former Chairman and Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), sat in for usual co-host Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience. The show is streamed live on line at WWW.880THEBIZ.COM, which is affiliated with Bloomberg Radio and CNBC, and can be heard nationally on 920-WGKA (Atlanta); KSEV (Houston); 1500 AM (Washington D.C.); 1220-KDOW (San Francisco); and 1300-KKOL (Seattle).



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