



From the Desk of

**Michael Blichasz**

Host of the Saturday Variety Program at 11 A.M.

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[AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com](http://AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com)

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### **Success Depends on Change!**

Since the time of the Industrial Revolution, **a large percentage of America's wealth and job stability was based on manufacturing** the items we use in our daily lives. Twenty-five years ago, as **globalization and outsourcing began to grow, few realized that without a strong domestic manufacturing base, it would be hard to maintain employment opportunities and a stable American economy.**

In the past twenty-five years, **the reduction in America's manufacturing base has caused major problems in every state and city across the U.S.A.** Today, a major portion of America's economy is **based on consumption, without manufacturing.** That means that **most of what we purchase is now foreign made.** When clothing, shoes, computers, toys, sporting goods, televisions, cell phones and others items were made in America, so their production benefitted American workers and America's economy directly. Unfortunately, **because there was very little reaction by the American people** to the growing number of foreign made items in our stores, **businesses continued to outsource manufacturing to foreign countries.** Because Americans kept **buying without questioning** where the products were made, the American market became overwhelmed with foreign made products. Today, **American made items are now hard to find in stores, and American manufacturing and employment opportunities have declined.**

**As a result of outsourcing, as much as 90% of well-known American brand name items are manufactured abroad.** This is not something American consumers can support any longer because **it is hurting American workers, America's economy and devastating America's communities.**

I'm sure we can all agree that we need to return to practices that kept America successful for decades. We have to make our feelings known to business, political and labor leaders. We need them to work in harmony so **our manufacturing base can be revived** and more **items** like clothing, televisions, computers, telephones, toys, furniture and many others **can once again proudly display the "Made in America" label.**

For example, one area for change that I recommend is the domestic production of the sweat shirts, t-shirts, team hats and other specialty items representing our favorite baseball, football, hockey, soccer and basketball teams. Today, **all of our sports team products are made overseas** and shipped to America to be sold to American fans. It would be appropriate for the licensed sportswear purchasing agents to contract with U.S. companies so American workers could benefit. Just think how many **tens of thousands of Americans could be employed if American sports team products were all made here in the U.S.A.** The American people financially support the teams with ticket sales and the purchase of memorabilia, so **it would be appropriate if sports team owners supported American**

**workers so that their sportswear could proudly display the “Made in America” label. Take a look at the sports items you purchased to see how many were made in the U.S.A. and contact your favorite teams to let them know about your concern for American workers.**

This is Michael Blichasz. I appreciate receiving your comments and suggestions. You can print out a copy of my commentary, email it to a friend or email me from my Internet site at: [AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com](http://AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com) or [MichaelSupportsAmerica.com](http://MichaelSupportsAmerica.com).