



From the Desk of

Michael Blichasz

Host of the Saturday Variety Program at 11 A.M.
1540 AM Radio WNWR • Philadelphia, PA
AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com

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Re-establishing America's Manufacturing Base

We can all agree that America has helped nations around the world for many years through its foreign aid programs and by sharing its technology which contributed to the growing global economy. Bearing these facts in mind, I feel it's time for Americans to start looking out for the well-being of our fellow Americans and America's economy. **It's time to re-establish our manufacturing base**, retrain people in accordance with modern manufacturing standards, and permit American industries to compete with manufacturers around the world.

From the responses I receive about my commentaries, many Americans agree that other countries are modernizing their industrial base at a faster pace than America and they would like to see that change. We have to understand that employment opportunities like management, accounting, sales, research and development, shipping and other jobs, rely upon a strong manufacturing base. Without upgrading our industrial operations, employment opportunities will not grow and our economy will remain stagnant. The first step toward making change happen is to **go out of our way to purchase American made products**. Every dollar we spend on American made products benefits American businesses and American workers and adds to the well-being of America's economy.

This week someone told me he went to buy an air conditioner at a major store. He found that many countries' products were represented, but **not one air conditioner was made in America**. How long can this trend continue? As recently as **20 years ago, most air conditioners and other electrical products were made in the U.S.A.** I believe it's time to change what is happening now and set an aggressive **goal of a 50-50 balance** between imported and domestic made products in stores throughout the U.S.A.

If we all **get in the habit of looking for, asking for and buying American made products** where we shop, business owners will get the message and change will happen. I'm encouraging you to be more mindful of the well-being of American workers and their families. **When you pick up a product, look where it's made**. If it's foreign made, ask sales clerks if they have the same item made in America and discuss your concerns with them. We need to get the message out and continue to **buy American made items to keep Americans working**.

This is **Michael Blichasz**, and as always, I appreciate hearing from you. I welcome your comments and suggestions and ask that you spread the word to others. You can email me from my Internet site at: AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com.