

The Debate:
September 8, 2011

Kudos:

First of all I must say: kudos to the GOP and the candidates for the courage to walk into the lion's den that is MSNBC and for their gallantry in opening one of the shrines of Conservatism (The Reagan Presidential Library) to the liberal moderators.

This showed a number of things:

1. First and foremost, the Conservative bonhomie in welcoming everybody from all philosophies to open, free debates;
2. Secondly, the bravery of the candidates to take on questions of the kind and with the virulence that we never saw and will never see Obama take. (My feeling is that we will end our lives without ever seeing a piercing question asked to him or him going to Fox and put himself in a position where he just would not be allowed to spin or lie), and;
3. Third, the honesty and poise with which the candidates conducted themselves even when confronted with loaded, ill-intentioned, below-the-belt questions from the liberal team, shamelessly and cynically aimed at highlighting what liberals perceive as Conservative flaws and also aimed at turning the candidates against each other.

Now, on to my views:

Keep your eye on the prize:

The main thing I took away from the debate and that I hope all the candidates will remember going forward, was Speaker Gingrich's keen observation of the moderators' and the liberal media's "mission". Not to get the candidates to make their points but instead, to try to stop them from focusing on differentiating themselves from the actual opponent: Obama.

I hope that in next debates (and in interviews, town hall meetings, and the campaign trail) the candidates will not take the liberal bait and will not detract from the objective to end one of the most disastrous administrations in American history: that of Obama.

I hope that in the future the candidates will become keenly aware that the media is out to attack them and mislead their audience all the while and simultaneously carrying Obama's water.

I hope the candidates in the future will not fall in the trap and when put in a confrontational position by liberals, take that opportunity to drive their points home and talk about what they will do and how they will be much better, much more honest, and an infinitely better option than Obama.

I understand the need for Governors Perry and Romney to preserve and fight for their leading positions in the polls, but they can very well present themselves as the best candidate by contrasting their own achievements and positions to those of Obama rather than to those of another Republican.

At the end of the day, we all want (and need) a Republican victory, and infighting (even when provoked by liberals) can make us look as less than united or as naïve every time we fall into the traps that the MSNBC, CNNs, ABCs, et cetera of the world will undoubtedly set up for us. This will hold true particularly with Independent voters who once again are likely to decide the election in 2012.

Like Speaker Gingrich and Governor Huntsman said, lets not lose sight of the prize. We need to stay united to win and while each candidate has real, valid and genuine differences, we cannot let the media and the liberals frame them for us and much less manipulate our message.

Listen to Speaker Gingrich!
He knows.

The Candidates:

It would be fantastic to have a candidate with the intelligence of Speaker Gingrich, the fire of Congressman Paul, the clarity of Governor Romney, the Conservative values of Governor Perry, Senator Santorum and Congresswoman Bachmann, the international know-how of Governor Huntsman, and the clarity of Mr. Haim, but ...

... but a Ronald Reagan is born once in a generation, if at all.

However, I think we have a terrific set of candidates each with his or her own attributes and strengths and all of them with the conviction that America needs a strong President that goes beyond words and takes action, that works for what is best for the country and not for special interests and only his or her base, and most importantly, one who leads.

Any of the eight clearly will make a better president than the one that currently occupies the White House; and any of them clearly will steer the country back to the path of America's greatness. We have in this set of candidates the future President that when confronted with a problem will actually have a solution, and not just a speech.

All we need now is to counter the wave of ideology and propaganda flooding the airwaves by the media and the administration and get our message across making sure that the American People see beyond the Obama myths and talking-points and understand just how much truly is at stake.

If we can do this, it is easy for me to see *at least* the next sixteen years (the next President and Marco Rubio after him or her) leading this great nation.

The Two Major Issues:

1.- Jobs:

I don't think that anybody that looks at the current situation believes that *Obama's failed policies of the present* are sustainable. Tax and spend, out-of-control indebtedness and the explosion in the size of government and entitlements is a sure recipe for disaster and Obama is set on all of the above.

Each and every one of our candidates has a good plan to get our economy back on the recovery path and to create the jobs that have been destroyed under Obama's devastating tenure.

Each and every one of our candidates understands and knows that the solution lies in taking government off the backs of job creators, leveling the playing field to promote free and healthy competition, and providing certainty that will lead to people putting their capital and efforts back to work in new, existing, and expanding small, medium and large businesses; in manufacturing, services, and every other job-intensive activity.

They all understand President Reagan's maxim that "government is not the solution; government is the problem."

Both Governors Perry and Romney stand out given their records and success stories. Governor Romney by turning around an economy that was on the brink of disaster in Massachusetts and Governor Perry proudly showcasing his achievements that put Texas in the leading position as the state with the most jobs created in the last few years even in the face of Obama's Great Recession. Mr. Haim's business experience also positioned him as a person that can speak about job creation with authority, and Governor Huntsman's record in Utah also speaks for itself.

All the candidates offered specific, concrete proposals and actions (as opposed to platitudes and empty one-liners). Their solutions ranged from achieving energy independence by developing all those industries that remain tied up in a throng of regulations and by creating millions of jobs as a result, to providing tax incentives to attract not only those companies that left the country seeking for better business conditions abroad, but in addition, bringing over corporations that would be delighted to operate in the United States if and when the current punitive taxation system and its corresponding uncertainties are lifted. The bottom line is that all of these candidates have had either business or executive experience (or both) and have faced the challenges of reversing faltering economies, or balancing budgets, or just excelling in their respective fields. They know what they are talking about and it shows.

What a stark contrast with a president whose only previous experience was as a Junior Senator that did not even complete his term and who had, as the highlight of his professional life, having been a community organizer. No wonder we have the results we have! No wonder America so desperately needs a change of direction, a change in leadership, a change in economic policy and philosophy.

2.- The Economy:

Tied to the above topic, all the candidates showed their proficiency in dealing with economic subjects.

What a difference from a few years ago when I was watching a primary debate between Obama and Secretary Clinton thinking to myself that the country could end up in the hands of someone who did not have the slightest idea about the most simple of economic concepts!

It happened, and we will reverse that.

In the Republican slate we have a group of people with a deep understanding of economics and its dynamics. They all know that American Capitalism has been the largest wealth creator in the history of humankind and that because of this and time-tested Conservative values the United States became the greatest and most powerful nation ever.

All of our candidates understand the value of individual freedom, entrepreneurship, American ingenuity, and a fair system that offers not misplaced charity, not give-aways, but opportunities for all.

They all understand the perils of tampering with those principles and values by favoring handouts over incentives to work. They are all very much aware of the benefit of allowing the individual to make his or her own decisions rather than having a “nanny state” making its citizens increasingly dependent and as a consequence less free.

Every candidate understands and abides by the principle that “*the government that governs least, governs best*” and that government should not be an obstacle that those with the willingness to work and advance should face. They all believe in free markets and the benefits of unleashing the imagination and hard work of the American People. They all understand that success should never be punished and wealth should not be “spread around”.

Most importantly, they all understand that we do not have a taxation problem; we have a spending problem. That borrowing more from the Chinese to finance out-of-control spending is akin to keep digging America deeper into the ditch. They all understand that one cannot borrow his or her way out of indebtedness and that one cannot tax prosperity in order to grow a dependent base for the sake of guaranteeing generations upon generations of captive votes.

Conclusion:

I believe that the debate gave us all a great opportunity to feel confident about America’s future. We can rest assured that with the next Republican President most of the ills that America suffers today and certainly all of the maladies created by the Obama administration will become a thing of the past.

It is very encouraging to see eight intelligent, strong, experienced leaders and that any of them is able to bring America back to that preeminent place that this administration tried to give away to other nations.

Most importantly, I believe that we witnessed a common thread and a strong desire to work together to achieve the great things that the United States is destined to reach; That whoever wins the Republican nomination will be a formidable candidate and will carry the right message and the right attitude to achieve victory in 2012.

And although as I said in the beginning, a Ronald Reagan is born once in many decades, we could see the camaraderie that guarantees that all the candidates will circle the wagons around the nominee and will contribute their knowledge and their talents so that, as a group, as Conservative Republicans, we can take our country back.

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