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By Tom Wiknich

Should Donald Trump debate Bernie Sanders?

Now that Trump has won the republican nomination, he’ll be turning up the heat on Clinton and Sanders. In an obvious dig at Clinton, Trump has said he is willing to debate Sanders before the June 7th super primary, if he would make a large donation to a mutually agreed upon charity. This is obviously designed to shame Clinton. Sanders has been after Clinton to debate him before the June 7th primary, but she has refused. Sanders has been criticizing the DNC for rigging all the past debates to favor Clinton. Sanders says the DNC has insisted all past debates be in low viewer time slots, thereby helping Clinton, and hurting Sanders exposure to a national audience.

With that considered, should Trump debate him at all? It would definitely be another unequaled political move that no candidates have ever done before. Debating between the parties before a definite nominee has been confirmed has never been done. Here, we again have Trump setting new direction in political campaigns. All the know-it-all pundits probably have their heads spinning to this challenge by Trump to Sanders. The establishment democrats are probably going crazy thinking that it just might really happen. If Clinton continues her hold out, she’ll be seen as weak.

On top of all this, Clinton will not accept a debate offer from Fox News. Fox has offered Sanders and Clinton a debate any time they want. Clinton will not accept. She must fear real questions from the moderators, not the mostly soft ones they got from CNN and MSNBC. Clinton is definitely avoiding debating Sanders again. She believes she will get the nomination anyway, so why debate? With Trump jumping into the fire, she is now being made to look very weak with Trump offering to debate Sanders. I don’t think it would hurt him at all. It might even help with independents. If he does well in the debate, his approval ratings could go up drastically. That is something Clinton does not want to happen. For Sanders, the debate would give him a huge new audience. That will help his ability to challenge Clinton at the democrat convention. I don’t think Trump needs to debate Sanders, at least not yet, but it is a powerful play against the timid Clinton.

Adding this to Clinton’s debate denials, yesterday’s report that Clinton did, in fact, lie to the public when she said she didn’t intentionally use her person e mail for anything other than convenience. The IG report shows e mail from her to her staff at a few occasions when her personal email went down, staff offered her to use the state department phones. She wrote back that she didn’t want to do the because of freedom of information implications. This shows clear intent she knew exactly what she was doing, and was doing it to avoid accountability to the freedom of information act. Clinton’s problems are getting bigger, and now Trump jumping into the Sanders-Clinton non debate is sure to hurt her.

Clinton is now stuck between a rock and a hard place. If Sanders and Trump actually do debate, she will suffer greatly. I think her only possible salvation would be if she would jump into a debate with both of them. I think that is something that Trump should avoid. There is no real advantage for him to debate both of them now. Then again, Trump doesn’t follow any normal campaign practices. He runs with his gut. There was a reporter a couple months ago saying that she was on the road with Trump as he was heading to a particular campaign rally. She was watching him on the plane. As they were flying along, even though Trump had advisors on the plane, he was sitting at his desk on the plane, just thinking. Then he got out a piece of white paper, wrote down a few notes obviously just jotting down the main points he would be covering at the next speech. She said that he sat quietly at his desk for a long time just thinking. Getting no inputs from his staff, just thinking.

In conclusion, I have no problem Trump debating Sanders. It, once again, shows Trump turning upside down standard political practice. It would probably help Sanders as well. I know it’ll hurt Clinton. I’m sure is Trump’s target in this offer.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you.