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Koskinen John A

From: Geoffrey Peterson <(b) (6)>
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 8:00 PM
To: Koskinen John A
Subject: RE: Impressions of the big debate

You will make the reservation? My best to all the family.

From: Koskinen John A [mailto:John.A.Koskinen@irs.gov]
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 4:59 PM
To: 'Geoffrey Peterson'
Subject: RE: Impressions of the big debate

Since I missed the debate (b) (6) you take is very helpful.

See you on the 22d at Central at 12:15.

Looking forward to it.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Geoffrey Peterson (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 07:14 AM Central Standard Time
To: Koskinen John A
Subject: Fwd: Impressions of the big debate

Since we are all sharing our thoughts on the debate, here are mine.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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(b) (6)

From: Geoffrey Peterson (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 11:33 PM

(b) (6)

Subject: Impressions of the big debate

I wanted to write down my impressions of the prime time debate before listening to commentators or spin doctors. I find that they tend to overstate the differences in performances. I will not comment on the substance of their answers. I disagree with just about everything they said. But I'm trying to assess winners and losers and who will go up and who will go down. So here goes:

Donald Trump generally helped himself because he didn't change his persona. Republicans knew about all his quirks before the debate and all the questions about those quirks (single-payer, bankruptcy, running as an independent) were already known. He clearly had decided to adhere closely to the time limits. He did not hog the stage. He was bigger than life. And I think he will stay on top for now.

Governor Kasich is a big winner too. He was excellent, projecting warmth and caring and feeling without betraying his conservative principles. I thought he looked good. Appealing and not phony. I think he will move up quickly. I had really never warmed up to Kasich. I like how he handled himself a lot.

Scott Walker, on the other hand, by contrast, looked canned and phony. He was especially tone deaf on the policing issue where instead of talking about the underlying national problem that blacks are at the mercy of the police, made it into a simple police training issue. Aside from the merits it showed me he was tone deaf. He didn't answer a couple of questions and I had a negative feeling. He looks plastic to me.

Senator Rand Paul did the worst. His hair looked worse than usual, like a small animal was sleeping on his head. I had read that his strategy was to pick fights. He did that from the start. I don't think anyone can envision him as president. Paul's whiny back and forth with Christie did him no good. He will drop.

Where did friendly conservative Mike Huckabee go. He used to say he was a conservative but was not angry about it. Tonight he was angry and didn't help himself. His hairline looked weird and all that weight regained has not given him more appeal. He will remain very marginal

Marco Rubio looked good and had a good start with his trying to describe a different nation that needed a new generation of leader. He still seems to me to lack gravitas when compared to some of the others. I don't think he hurt himself but I think he remains in the middle of the pack. He did not break out of the pack in any sense. Questioners missed a good set of questions about Rubio's reliance on Norman Braman for his preSenate earnings and his wife's job as well as his precarious finances.

Jeb Bush hurt himself. He seemed nervous and managed to stumble a little bit. He has clearly memorized his talking points about his years as governor. He didn't make me comfortable when I watched him. I think he will fade, probably slowly.

Ted Cruz was Ted Cruz. He didn't change anybody's opinion and I think he will remain on the margin.

Chris Christie on the other hand didn't make me nervous and had good answers to some tough questions, especially about what bad shape the state was in. He had his numbers down pat on the size of the military he wanted to see and What's with the hair curl? Anyway, I thought he did reasonably well and may move up a bit. Chris Christie

Ben Carson seemed half asleep during the first part of the debate, projecting no energy and had an attitude of bemusement about the debate. He had some good and clever answers toward the end. But he is a glib lightweight who really is in this, I think, to sell books. I think the half brain that he removed was his.

Generally these candidates are articulate men. Senators (Rubio, Cruz, Paul), who really have no accomplishments, relied solely on platitudes and I think it showed.

I thought the questioners generally had good questions although when these guys got off topic to answer something else the questioners didn't get them back on point.

So those are my thoughts. Now I will go in and see what the spinners and commentators said. Have a good night.

Geoffrey Peterson
The Peterson Group

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