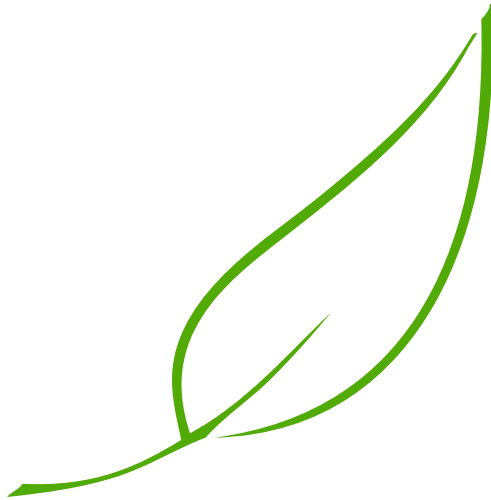


CANDIDATES' DEBATE

by Robert L. Crowe



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(Author's note: To make this a successful duet selection, creativity must be used in the presentation by each candidate and the reactions of each candidate. Vocal variety, facial expression, bodily movement, and enthusiasm are key ingredients. Each candidate should establish a predominant personality. For example, Johnson can be a pompous wind-bag and Miller slow talking, or especially nervous.)

CANDIDATE MILLER: Welcome to the Candidate's debate!

I'm Candidate _____ *(use your name.)* We must proceed rapidly. As you know, the restriction on illegal political contributions has been enforced so instead of an hour debate we can afford only about 10 minutes. We are both running for U.S. representative. I represent the Whig Party and this will be my first elected office.

CANDIDATE JOHNSON: *(to Miller)* You have to get *elected* before you get your first elected office! *(to audience)* I'm Candidate _____. I'm with the Tory Party and currently your U.S. Representative. Here is the format that will be used for this program. There will be a silly opening statement from my opponent. Then I will get to speak. Following that there will be exchange between the two of us ... then we will each make a closing statement. Let us proceed.

MILLER: Yes. Let us. It is only fitting that I speak first because that's where I plan to finish in this election. *(pointedly, to Johnson)* Since this **will** be my first elected office, I have no political experience to clutter-up my thinking. I have no particular qualification but apparently *(looks at Johnson)* it doesn't take any. So, instead of talking about myself, I will concentrate upon saying nasty but accurate things about my opponent. Let it suffice to say to all assembled here that I am for education. Now, let's look at my opponent's record. And, he has a record ... *(Miller*

tries to make a funny here ...) I heard that he was recently arrested for impersonating a U.S. Representative. Ha, Ha, Ha. But seriously, folks. Representative _____ sat on a sub-committee ... and he would lie down if they let him ... on a sub-committee to review the income tax system. And how many changes did they make? None! Did they adopt a flat tax? No! They did nothing except keep the present system ... The Internal Revenue Service ... the world's most successful mail order business. The IRS invented Form 1040 ... if you make ten, they take 40! Form 1040 is the government's way to get you to squeal on yourself. You know why it's called 1040? Because that's the IQ it takes to fill one out. The way prices are increasing I bet next year it's 1050! You think no one knows you're alive? Try filing late! Representative Johnson is one of those who created the system of equality so that millionaires and sharecroppers both pay the same amount of tax. Nothing! (*continues to mouth words but no sound comes out*) (*pause*) I guess my time is up. I see they turned off my microphone. I'll avoid the issues again later. (*sits*)

JOHNSON: (*rises*) My opponent represents that Whig Party. Know why it's called the Whig Party? Because that's what the Whigs do most of the time. It is evident that my opponent has no platform but if he (*or she*) did, it would be constructed of slippery elm. I did sit on the tax sub-committee and one thing I learned from my friends in the IRS was that there are many, many complicated laws when it comes to individual taxes. (*turns to Miller*) ... but I'm sure you'll come through your audit just fine.

As you know, the President is a member of the Whig Party. I have tried to publicly disagree with everything he does but take credit for the popular programs. I am deeply concerned about the Foreign Policy of the President. He wonders why Panama built a country around our canal! He has managed to alienate all of our former friends abroad. But ... there are some

lands we still get along with: Opryland, Disneyland, Maryland.

Candidate _____ says he is interested in education. It's about time. Apparently he wasn't when he went to school. I had the FBI make some inquiries into his educational past, and by talking to his teachers and classmates, here is but a sample of what we found: I think it is indicative of things to come that he had his year-book picture taken wearing a ski-mask. Also, indicative of things to come is that his 7th grade report card is being audited. He believed in prayer in schools but only when he was taking a test. His English teacher asked him the title of the book he was reading and he said, "I haven't got that far yet!" His parents went to PTA meetings under an assumed name. His history teacher reported that one day she said, "You can't sleep in my class!" and he replied, "I could if you didn't talk so loud." He went to college and got a B.A. ... but it was defined as "Barely Adequate."

MILLER: I object!

JOHNSON: We already know you're objectionable. Do you object to the truth?

MILLER: Only if it's about me. The audience tires of your slanderous comments. You just don't catch-on. You're like ... like ... catsup. Rich and thick. People don't believe you and your cronies. They ought to put a sign outside Washington DC that says, "Home of the Whopper." It's lies, half-truths, and bluster. Politics has an interesting effect on some people. I call it the Amazon River Effect. They start off small and humble and end up with a big mouth.

JOHNSON: Seeking this office must be very difficult for you, knowing that your campaign peaked just before you announced. Answer this. Do you echo the President? Do you rubber stamp his position on foreign policy? What is your position on foreign policy?

MILLER: I favor a strong international presence.



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