

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

WAYNE H. VALIS

Wayne H. Valis

SUBJECT:

William J. Baroody, Special Interest Comment

Book: Reaction to the First Presidential Debate

At Bill Baroody's direction the Office of Public Liaison staff solicited frank comments and analysis from leaders from many sectors of society. The comments are generally favorable, and contain some excellent analysis.

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Shelley Smith
Title: 1976 Bicentennial Senior
Affiliation:

COMMENTS

I thought they were both very good. I thought though that Ford came out fighting really strong in the first half.

On the final remarks they were equally as strong.

I really was impressed with the way they both addressed the issues specifically.

I have now decided that I do support the President.

Many kids on campus who are democrats scored the debates issue-for-issue and even they found that Ford came out ahead.

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Frederick McClure
Title: Student Body President
Affiliation: Texas A&M University

COMMENTS

I think the President came out much better than ABC commented.

Carter evaded on several issues.

Very poor use of logic by Mr. Carter on the anti-Washington issue.

Carter's comparison of previous administrations is not relevant today and is misleading.

The statistics were basically irrelevant, they were just big numbers.

Physically, it began with Mr. Ford ahead and faded until the summation.

The closing remarks, Mr. Carter tries to make a very sympathetic appeal and I don't think the American voters go for that.

Mr. Ford was forceful at the end. His style has improved close to a hundred percent.

The President had a slight edge on Mr. Carter on the Federal Reserve Board question.

The taxes, unemployment, vetoes and spending questions were about even.

The President's rebuttal to the question on Federal re-organization was excellent.

The President's direct eye contact with the camera was bad. That was a benefit to Mr. Carter despite his shifty eyes.

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Jean Mayer

Title: President, Tufts University, Boston Massachusetts

Affiliation: Tufts University

Comments: By and large, the President did better, very composed
and confident, competent and unruffled.
Both were gentlemanly - high level.

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Bill Knauer and Richard Brown

Title: Assistant District Attorneys, Philadelphia

Comments: The President started strong- President seemed to slow down in later questions (90 minutes too long)
President looked good when he went after Carter-
Georgia statistics good points-
President good in closing
President good in costing and Carter's programs
(Penn students favorably impressed)
re CIA: bad question for the President
Carter didn't sell well in finale-
President did well- was more forceful in finale
President ahead on points-

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Kathryn McCarthy

Title: Provost, Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts

Affiliation:

COMMENTS

Very impressed by President

Not really a debate

No exchange between people

Change of pace--Carter started slowly but got better and finished
very strong

Ford came across as Presidential

Could be closer to the people--i.e., soft stuff of Carter

Style--President speeds up when he has facts

Liked President's answer to energy area

Technique--tends to lose adverbs--said substantial rather than
substantially

Poorly staged

Overall--felt Ford very good

Name: Mr. John Kehoe (California)
Title: Executive Vice President,
Affiliation: Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

COMMENTS

President was outstanding- Performance extremely strong and he carried the debate.

Had command of the facts, especially on taxes, Carter's record in Georgia, need for independent Federal Reserve Board.

Carter good on reorganization and last four minutes. Overall, Carter is insecure.

President should scold more- he was very strong in explaining his vetoes.

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Virginia Cutler (Utah)
Title: Past Chairman, MACAP
Affiliation: Major Appliance and Consumer Action Panel

COMMENTS

President well dressed- should be stronger about "people" and "disadvantaged."

Closing remarks are strong- should emphasize concern for people
Ford should answer questions first and then explain his answers later so it doesn't appear that he is evading the issue.

Carter plays to people well but not specific enough on programs.

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Solomon Harge (Ohio)
Title: Executive Director
Affiliation: Consumer Protection Association

COMMENTS

President seemed more forceful than Carter, who appeared weak in
expressing himself
President strong in saying Congress for 22 years wrote tax laws--
also vetoes and checks and balances discussion was very strong
President was looking down at times
President should attack more--show more fight
Overall--President stronger and more substantive
Carter good on reorganization of government issue

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Lillian Mohr
Title: Associate Professor- Home and Family Life
Affiliation: School of Home Economics, Florida State University

COMMENTS

President very well briefed with facts down pat
Critical--panel should be raised--eyes toward audience; not down
President was very confident and won debate
President doesn't have to be so defensive to Carter's remarks
Carter too tense
President had a great deal of substance

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Robert L. Wright
Title: Optometrist, self-employed
Affiliation: has served as Councilman, City of Columbus, Georgia
:

COMMENTS

President very bold and positive--didn't appear to have doubts in his positions
President had good command of facts and struck a positive chord-- wasn't pushed around--didn't apologize for anything
Style -- looked down like he had notes--should look at audience more directly
Carter appeared weak--not forceful enough

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Ms. Camille Haney (Wisconsin)
Title: Consumer Affairs Director
Affiliation: Barkin, Herman. Solocheck and Paulson

COMMENTS

In general--President was the winner
Strauss comments very biased
Ford wrap-up not as good--a let-down
Defense of vetoes very strong
Put Carter on defensive on Georgia
Ford should look up more; lost eye contact at beginning
Tie bar distracting
Carter looked ruffled, drawn
Ford talks about "Country;" should use word "people"
President should answer question directly--then explain
Used term "quality of life program"--people may not understand
Nessen came across as arrogant

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Archie Boe

Title: Chairman

Affiliation: Allstate Insurance Company

COMMENTS

Absolutely great; the President came through clear and precisely. Carter was very vague. The President should hit harder on taxes and point out Carter's vagueness. Carter had the edge on the unemployment discussion. The high employment totals need to be stressed or brought out in a more understandable way.

Name: Frank Borman

Title: President

Affiliation: Eastern Airlines

COMMENTS

The President wasn't a smashing success but on balance he came out very well. He should be more combative. Carter blew it on the government reorganization question.

via John Calhoun

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell

Title: President

Affiliation: National Business League

COMMENTS Governor Carter finally came out of hiding on the issues and he is very shallow. President Ford showed Governor Carter to be less than accurate as usual and a past master of flip flopping.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Marjorie Chambers

Title: President, Colorado Women's College

Affiliation: President, American Association of University Women

COMMENTS

President did pretty well.

Generally positive and well informed.

Carter smirked on occasions. Ford smiled once but did not smirk.

Ford image well ahead of Carter.

Reporters questions favored Carter:

Amnesty
Nuclear power

Carter often taking notes. President did not. That gave a good impression of the President.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: The Honorable Joanne Collins
Title: City Councilwoman, Kansas City, Mo.
Affiliation: Candidate for Congress

COMMENTS

President womn. "He came over as more presidential", more cool. His responses showed he cared about people. The statistics were not that important. It was the impression of caring that was the difference; important.

He could have talked more about what he has done about urban problems, the cities, e.g. revenue sharing, etc.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Audrey Colom

Title: President

Affiliation: National Women's Political Caucus

COMMENTS

Carter did not answer questions well

President did well on amnesty and he defended his policies well.

He should stress more the 74 pieces of legislation he has proposed.

The President should smile more, and look looser.

The Republican President vs. the Democratic Congress was a good issue and balance.

Carter did better than expected .

Carter Administration material good -- example what he did as Governor to cut down employment and spending.

In the President's energy answer he did not mention solar energy.

Felt they came out pretty equal and concerned that Carter would consider that good.

For quotation, "The President came out in favor of a lot of social programs that exist but made it clear that these programs needed to work better and spending more money was no assurance."

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Ronald O. Daly
Title: Immediate Past Executive Director
Affiliation: Student National Education Association

COMMENTS

I don't think either candidate came out a clear victor on the debates.

I like the way the President handled himself very much -- he really had command of himself.

Carter got in a few good smiles.

Carter is still double-talking rhetoric -- lower taxes and less spending. His numbers just don't add up.

He was fuzzy, I couldn't pin him down. The President dealt with the issues in a good severe fashion.

I wish the President had been more friendly -- he is a warmer person than he came across.

via John Calhoun

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Mrs. Pauline Ellison

Title: National President, The LINKS, Arlington, Va.

Affiliation:

COMMENTS

I certainly thought the debate was very interesting.

The President came through very strong and was very much in command. Mr. Ford was very knowledgeable and gave a very excellent presentation.

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Ronald Fahr, Brighton, Colorado

Title: President

Affiliation: American Optometric Association

COMMENTS

The President came across very well. He needs to show his natural compassion; perhaps lowering his voice or smiling at times would help.

He showed himself to be a statesman with a national view. His knowledge and experience were apparent. (This may be quoted.)

I want to stress the need for showing compassion; it is important.

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Ray Finney

Title: President

Affiliation: American National Cattlemen's Association

COMMENTS

I heard it on the radio -- the President did very well and was impressive. He won on the tax question and on the Congressional question. Carter made a mistake with his references to Nixon. I think they came out about the same in the debate, but I think the President improved his position.

via Milt Mitler

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Kimball Firestone

Title: Vice President, Firestone Tire and Rubber, Wash., D.C.

Affiliation:

COMMENTS

Can be quoted

President came off well

Both made good presentations

On substance--President way ahead

Comment by President-- "Well, you can't have it both ways"--very good!

President consistent

President looked good, spoke decisively, had control

Liked parts where President took after Carter

Carter smooth

Name: Miss Chris Ford, age 19
Title: National Vice Chairman
Affiliation: SEVCA

COMMENTS

It was interesting.

I preferred the President from the beginning anyway.

I think one thing that really hurt Carter was his stand on the blanket pardon for draft evaders and his inability to decrease Federal spending by creating new programs.

Ford made excellent points on the decrease of taxes of middle income Americans and the decrease in Federal spending.

Carter's projections weren't accurate.

On the whole the President definitely was more composed and direct and displayed a better performance.

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Jack Frost
Title:
Affiliation: Committee for the Future

COMMENTS

As a futurist and as a democrat, I have to say that what it came down to is who do I want to represent me in talking to Breznev -- Carter or Ford. On the basis of the debate, I would prefer Ford, I expected Carter to be more polished on domestic and economic affairs -- he didn't. There is no doubt that Ford has the advantage going into the foreign policy debate.

via Milt Mitler

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Ron Gidwitz

Title: Vice President, Helene Curtis, Chicago, Illinois

Affiliation:

COMMENTS

Gidwitz can be quoted

Didn't lose

Did well during first half hour

Carter didn't make much sense during first half hour

President's closing statement not good

Seemed to lose momentum toward end

Tried to fill time rather than being concise

President could have hit Carter for not responding to questions,
but didn't

Carter may have lost some soft points--President didn't

President looked more impressive when sound was out. Carter looked
much smaller than President

Net gain for President

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Mr. Terry Giroux
Title: Director of Student Activities
Affiliation: National Association of Secondary School Principals

COMMENTS

Excellent.

Being a former debate coach, I would say that Mr. Ford was definitely in command of the situation. He really hit the issues especially during the rebuttal. He came on and attacked Carter where Carter was the weakest.

The President really struck home with his facts on the Administration of Georgia government when Carter was governor.

The President was far superior in the summation. He came across with facts, yet compassion. He made you understand that he has returned integrity to the White House -- and I want to keep him there.

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Paul Henson

Title: Chairman

Affiliation: United Telecommunications, Inc.

COMMENTS

I was very pleased on balance. I was disturbed by the President's lack of eye contact; he should improve this and smile more. I think most Americans would conclude he is worthy of trust and confidence.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Alfred C. Herrera
Title: Vice President
Affiliation: E-Systems
Bethesda, Maryland

COMMENTS

Use of statistics may be a bit too heavy for digestion of general public. Carter's use of statistics more for effect -- may not stand up under close scrutiny. Ford's summary was good. Ford's direction towards individual, strong private enterprise - extremely positive. Carter appears to be speaking about bigger government and more control. Private industry, in order to create jobs, needs incentive. In order to compete in the international world, US must have incentives such as Japan, Germany and other countries offer. DISC was created for a legal purpose to record transactions on the international level.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Ming Hsu

Title: Member, National Commission on IWY

Affiliation: Member, National Heritage Committee and State
PFC Chairman for People for Ford for N.J.

COMMENTS

President did very well.

It was not as decisive as we had hoped it would be.

Want change many votes. Carter didn't flub as much as expected.

President did very well. He was candid, sounded trustworthy
and honest.

Carter was the same old Carter.

President handled lots of things, facts and figures very
well. Especially the issue of the Congress.

He is still weak on issues of Nixon pardon and amnesty.

Ford did very well but wish he had knocked Carter out.

Carter did lose his cool at several points.

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Wilson S. Johnson

Title: President

Affiliation: National Federation of Independent Business

COMMENTS

I was impressed with the President's discussion of fiscal matters and job. His very direct and specific answers impressed me, and I'm sure many others as well.

Name: Reginald H. Jones

Title: Chairman

Affiliation: General Electric Company

COMMENTS

All the 98 officers of GE listened; most of my associates concluded it was pretty much of a draw. We rated it on this scale:

Decency and trust -- slightly in favor of the President.

Presidential capability -- a clear win.

Vision for America -- Carter was very strong. The President should not have attacked him during the summation. The lines about "Betty and the children and your children" etc. were not good.

The Congress -- a win for the President.

Compassion -- a draw.

Issues -- 85% for the President.

On an intellectual basis, the President won; on an emotional basis, Carter was not winning but pulled it out with his summation. Next time out the President should stress his capability, his vision for America, and his compassion for working people.

I am more optimistic than my associates; if it was a draw, it was to the President's advantage.

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Douglas Kenna

Title: President

Affiliation: National Association of Manufacturers

COMMENTS

Carter came out much stronger than I expected. He certainly lost business support, but had an appeal to the populist element. The President has to get more offensive. He was constantly on the defense. He did a good job of defending and was very effective issue-by-issue, but needs to attack more. He should talk to the camera rather than the panel -- Carter appeared to communicate right to the audience.

In summary, it looked like a standoff.

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Alan Ladwig
Title: President
Affiliation: Forum for the Advancement of Students in Science
and Technology

COMMENTS

I didn't think it was a debate. I thought it was more of a press conference. I lacked the sense of a one-to-one communication between the two candidates. I would give the debate to President Ford by my own figures of 8 to 4.

I think this debate is the end of TV as a medium for this kind of thing. The candidates didn't talk to each other, didn't express their feelings and the electorate was denied the opportunity to decide where the candidates really stood.

I definitely thought that President Ford stated his positions much more clearly -- on taxes, on amnesty, on re-organization of the Federal government, and particularly on energy and nuclear energy.

I would like to see Gerald Ford take on Jimmy Carter face-to-face -- and I think Gerald Ford could cream Jimmy Carter but the medium didn't let that happen.

I didn't think there was any vision.

via Virginia Knauer

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Stewart Lee (Pennsylvania)
Title: Chairman, Department of Economics and Business Admn.
Affiliation: Geneva College

COMMENTS

Anyone siding with the President would increase his liking for the President.

Carter was too supercilious -- smirky attitude and facial expressions.

The President had very substantive answers.

Two picayune items -- The President was looking down when he responded, whereas Carter looked at the camera. At the close Carter had better eye contact.

The President made a technical error -- said "medium" rather than "median" income.

Overall -- it was a very close debate and it's difficult to say how the independents will react.

via John Calhoun

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Mrs. Jewel LaFontant

Title: Attorney

Affiliation:

COMMENTS

The President was pretty strong. The debates were not as fiery as I thought they could have been. On the whole, the debate was dull.

Name: Miss Julie Landry
Title: National President
Affiliation: Future Business Leaders of America

COMMENTS

They both seemed nervous at first.

I definitely agreed with the answer to the questions on amnesty and the Nixon pardon.

One of the President's assets is experience and this really came across. His record does stand and I'd rather see him continue his job.

I was delighted that the President said he would submit a balanced budget in 1977.

I expected questions on busing, abortion, etc., but I think they hit the major issues.

I liked the way President Ford closed it. He seemed so sincere. I think they've given the American people a lot to think about between now and November and I think this is good.

The President's education statement on education commensurate with their abilities was excellent. As President of a vocational student organization I was glad to hear that.

As the President summed it up, it is his performance over Carter promises.

Name: Richard Leshner

Title: President

Affiliation: Chamber of Commerce of the United States

COMMENTS

I thought the President did a super job; he was in control and in control of himself; his competitive nature came through, but so did his dignity; he had the truth, the facts, and the substance on every issue. Carter came through as egotistical, shallow, and as a smart Alec.

Tell the President not to change a thing.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Nick Lugo, Jr.
Title: President-Publisher
Affiliation: Temas Magazine

COMMENTS

Ford "did his homework." Demonstrated confidence. Carter less confident about issues. Liked Ford's stand on amnesty. Carter appeared to double-talk. Some questions oriented toward Carter.

via Wayne Valis

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Paul McCracken
Title: Professor of Economics
Affiliation: University of Michigan

COMMENTS

"The President has come through extremely well. He made the impression of being a solid, responsible person. I was proud of him."

via Bill Baroody

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Michael Novak
Title: Author and columnist
Affiliation:

COMMENTS

President Ford won hands down.

(Note: Bill Baroody, who called this in, was at Hot Springs with 100 Business Council leaders. When polled 98 felt Ford won, 2 felt Carter.)

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DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Alex Olmedo

Title: Tennis Professional

Affiliation: Former Wimbledon Davis Cup Champion; Graduate
University of Southern California; Intercollegiate
Singles and Doubles Champion. Of Peruvian ancestry.

COMMENTS

Name: Stephen Rhinesmith
Title: President
Affiliation: American Field Service

COMMENTS

I think stylistically that the President was more forceful, and I think that he had more presence than Carter did.

Carter came off physically smaller and weaker at the beginning and that continued throughout.

I think that on the issues the President came off on the plus side in 75 percent of the issues. That doesn't mean he wiped Carter out, but if you compare the points made on both sides, the President came off with several coups de grace.

Carter response to the Nixon pardon question was off the wall when he came back with a discussion of crime.

The closing statements sum up the gut feelings I really have. Carter came across as sentimental and personal -- saying I believe in America as the basic theme. My reaction is so what -- I would expect him to -- he's running for President. And he didn't say anything else. The President on the other hand, started out with specifics and hit the issues. It was a much better combination of statistics, historical and personal.

DEBATE COMMENTS

via Milt Mitler

Name: M/G J. Milnor Roberts

Title: Executive Director

Affiliation: Reserve Officers Assn of the U.S.

COMMENTS

Roberts -- can be quoted

President won on material he presented
Look at camera and not questioner
Performance as governor very devastating
Carter shouldn't complain about tax record since Democrats for
22 years set policy
Handled Nixon pardon well
Ford not afraid to hit back against Carter

Name: Willard F. Rockwell, Jr.

Title: Chairman

Affiliation: Rockwell International

COMMENTS

The President came over loud and clear and in command -- dominated the situation. Carter certainly didn't improve his position with businessmen.

via Pam Powell

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Brian Rosborough

Title: President

Affiliation: Education Expeditions International (Earthwatch)

COMMENTS

I have a random sample of people here and they were 10 to 3 for the President.

I personally favor the pragmatism and performance of the President over the personality and evangelism of Mr. Carter.

I believe in Mr. Ford and I share his commitment to a smaller Federal budget and a smaller Federal government.

I feel Mr. Ford has a harder burden to carry in defending a record and is carrying it better.

I thought the President was strong at the beginning and at the end. I thought they both got mired down in the middle.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Carlos Salmon
Title: President
Affiliation: Real Estate Development
Miami, Florida - Cuban

COMMENTS

President was excellent. Very clear.
President strong in the tax area. Carter again appears to be increasing government in size and control. Believes examples of how to lie with statistics were expressed by Carter and that unemployment certainly has been building up over an 8/10 year period over which President Ford had no control. Carter and Ford appear equal on energy, box score being 4 out of 6 especially well and tie on two points.

Name: Dr. Currin Shields
Title: President, Arizona Consumer Councils and Chairman,
Affiliation: Conference of Consumer Organizations

COMMENTS

Both handled themselves well. The President drew blood saying Congress wrote tax laws and Carter's record as government.

Weak on amnesty issue.

Carter -- weak on specifics for his proposed programs.

The President had advantage on closing remarks -- good eye contact.

Carter closing sounded like Baptist minister preaching.

Disturbed by Carter's lack of specifics

The President was extremely effective in closing statement.

Name: Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sowards (Kentucky)
Title: President-Elect, General Federation of Women's Clubs
Affiliation: General Federation of Women's Clubs

COMMENTS

Had 10 people, including Democrats, present for the debate. All agreed that Ford won the debate because Carter was not specific, and vacillated and expressed divisiveness between rich and poor.

Carter -- emotional closing without facts.

Ford -- sensible on jobs and taxes but Carter no specifics. Like statement of Ford regarding 11% reduction of Federal employees and White House staff.

Liked Ford's specifics on how to reduce taxes. Enjoyed agreement placing responsibility on Congress for spending and tax laws.

via John Calhoun

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Dr. Leon Sullivan
Title: Chairman of the Board
Affiliation: OIC

COMMENTS

President Ford pressed stronger in terms of ability to respond to more questions. The President was more knowledgeable, more firm, and more in command. Carter is still like Jello.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Emily Taylor

Title: President

Affiliation: Natinnal Association of Commissions for Women

COMMENTS

Ford's general presence was good.

Carter said nothing new.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Osta Underwood

Title: Past National President, National Federation of Business
and Professional Women

Affiliation: Chair, Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Rights
and Responsibilities of Women, HEW

COMMENTS

President was terrific.

Carter's accusing the President of insensitivity and charging that his programs were for PR purposes was a plus for the President because the President has not been insensitive. The best example is his efforts towards peace.

President's amnesty response was great and not insensitive. Facial expression was one of concern for people.

On the budget, Carter's promises vs. Carter's record was a good point.

The President's record was great as far as reducing the WH Staff and the Executive Branch staff.

Carter's admission that if he could not balance the budget as he projected, he would cut down on programs was a plus for the President.

The President was more specific.

Carter's "I will do" was a show of a dictatorship.

The President should make more of the responsibility of Congress.

The summation was great, Carter can't have it both ways.

The President was precise but Carter didn't explain himself.

The President came on strong.

A Vanderbilt Professor said after the debate that he thought the President did better because he gave specific answers to specific questions.

If she had been undecided she would now be for the President.

She thought it was interesting that Carter could not say that there would be fewer Federal employees.

Busbee's comment was excellent.
(Over)

She was resentful of Carter's statement that women and youth were out seeking jobs because of inflation.

She thought it was good that the President said that he was the 1st President to do something about energy.

The Carter comment on the Federal Reserve Board was a shift as he thinks that the Board should be independent but it should have concurrent terms with the President.

The veto answers were good.

The summation was great.

Carter kept saying trust me while the President demonstrated that he can be trusted.

The President's concern for the family in the summation was great/

Name: W. Allen Wallis

Title: Chancellor

Affiliation: University of Rochester/Chairman, The Tax Foundation

COMMENTS

I'm inclined to think well of the President's showing; he certainly talked sense more than Carter did. Carter made a number of demagogic appeals; the President missed a few chances to knock them down.

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Gerridee Wheeler

Title: National Committeewoman from North Dakota

Affiliation: Past President, National Association for Mental Health

COMMENTS

President Ford was great.

Carter didn't address the Democratic platform, i.e. Humphrey-Hawkins.

There should be more of the President's warmth. His experience came through.

It was good to knock the Democratic Congress. More of it.

The check and balance of the Democratic President and The Democratic Congress and the money saved with the President's vetoes were important.

President should exhibit more of a sense of humor like an ordinary person: like Truman, Eisenhower.

The President was concise, consistent and in concert with the American people as compared with Carters glittering generalities which won't wash with the American people.

via John Vickerman

DEBATE COMMENTS

Name: Kemmons Wilson

Title: Chairman

Affiliation: Holiday Inns, Inc.

COMMENTS

The President did a hell of a job. He looked good, was relaxed, had good delivery. Did a lot better than Carter. People know the President's positions on most things -- it was good to get Carter drawn out on the issues.

Have to take a stronger line on construction and housing. Lots of people are working but would be making more money if construction were up.

I felt at times he was talking more to Carter and the panel than to me.