



Episode 603: The GOP Debate Gets Ugly, so Lew and Tom Have Fun

Guest: Lew Rockwell

WOODS: I have to say, for the first time I can actually say that was worth watching (laughing).

ROCKWELL: It was fun to see them fight, wasn't it?

WOODS: It absolutely was, and I think that's – there was one moment where I think there was the most crosstalk I've ever seen in any situation.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: They're all just the three of them talking at once, and not one of them will give up. You can't understand what any of them is saying. Wolf Blitzer doesn't know what to do (laughing). It's just crazy. And then at one point, I mean, Blitzer was so thrown by the situation there was one point where Ted Cruz says, "Wolf, what, you're not going to let me talk about Obamacare?" "Look, Senator, you're going to have an opportunity to talk about –". "Yeah, but look, Obamacare's very important to me; I've had a lot to do with it." "Look, Senator, you – all right, go ahead." (laughing) That's not the way Wolf Blitzer normally operates, so what an interesting event. I think we can safely say, even though Carson had a much better closing statement than he normally does, I mean, it's obviously true that Kasich and Carson are really just not part of this anymore, so I think it's safe to just talk about the main three, right?

ROCKWELL: Although I've got to give Ben Carson credit for I thought the best line of the night, when he was talking about how you examine potential Supreme Court nominees. He said, you have to look at the fruit salad of their life.

WOODS: Oh yeah, that actually was a good line; that's right (laughing). Yeah, that was a good line. Yeah, I've got to start using "fruit salad" in that way (laughing). All right, now the conventional wisdom was that Rubio had just a great night, and in fact, I watched some of the post-debate interviews, and they had Ted Cruz on CNN, and they said, you know, Senator Cruz, a lot of the commentators are saying that – I don't know if you saw this, Lew. They're asking Cruz, a lot of the commentators are saying Marco Rubio had a very good night, and Cruz cut in and said, oh, you don't say? I've never heard any of the pundit class ever say that Marco had a good night (laughing).

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: So I thought, okay, that actually is kind of money. But that is the conventional wisdom. Before getting into the weeds here, give me your overall impression of what went on last night.

ROCKWELL: Well, I'm going to mention first of all, as I usually do, the Drudge Report poll.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: So this is going on all day today so people can check it and see any changes, so this is about half a million people. A little earlier Trump had 55%, Cruz had 20, Rubio at 17, Kasich had 5, Carson had 3. And that's pretty much the way it's been in all the post-debate polls, so I must say that as fun as this whole thing was, I don't think it changed anything. We'll see with the polls and then of course the primaries.

But I think, you know, Rubio, as you say, is hailed by all the media. I think they gave him a pill. I think they gave him a little Adderall or some other prescription methamphetamine to – it was like an upper. So he's yapping like a little dog. He sounded, if I may quote Hillary Clinton, like he was going [yapping sounds]. So that's Rubio. And I found also, maybe this is the pill, when he was trying to explain his healthcare plan and other things, I couldn't follow what he was saying, and I assume that means nobody else could follow him either. He really seemed slightly out of it, except that of course he was more aggressive, if that's quite the word for his fruit salad. But I don't think it changed anything.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: Also the stuff he was talking about, that Trump had 35 years ago used 200 illegal Polish workers and got a big fine brought on by a union complaint, and I noticed Ann Coulter said, oh, we're supposed to worry about 200 Polish workers – these are very smart people, she said, by the way – all these years ago, but many, many millions of illegal immigrants, hey, that's okay. Marco doesn't worry about that at all. In fact, he thinks it's a great thing. So I don't know. I don't think he actually did it himself.

But again, even though he enjoyed himself, it's not actually true that Trump University was a fraud, despite this civil lawsuit. I have a friend – you know him too, although I'm not going to give his name – who's very anti-Trump, but because he might have written something on the Trump University back in the day. And he told me, he said, I know all about these courses that explain to people how you're going to flip houses and how to make money from distressed housing and that sort of thing. He said this was by far the best program I ever sat in. He said the teachers were spectacular. The curriculum was very serious. And he said of course not everybody has got the abilities, even though they have the knowledge, to make money in this. It requires

entrepreneurial skills and an attitude and work ethic and type of personality and so forth. But he said the idea that this was a fraud, he said it's just a joke. The fact that there's a civil lawsuit over it in an attempt to get money out of Trump, he said there's nothing there. There's no there there, which I think is pretty much everything Rubio says.

WOODS: All right, so let's – yeah, let me just say on Rubio. The fact that there's never any comic relief, it makes him too much to take. It's just – last night, before I saw that everybody had concluded that the correct position was that he had had a wonderful night –

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: – I just thought, it's just non-stop. Attack, attack, yell, yell, yell. Whereas with Trump, I mean, he's funny some times. He says funny things. Or just some of his little asides. You know, he'll say something utterly devastating about Cruz, and he'll say as an aside, "These are minor details, but –" and then he goes on (laughing). But Rubio, he can't even smile half the time. It's just grr, grr, grr. I don't personally find that attractive.

ROCKWELL: No, a little attack dog, unimpressive, a little Chihuahua. He's not –

WOODS: Well, I'll say basically I felt like they were all kind of unimpressive. I mean, Trump was good in – he had some good moments that I want to talk about, and he was good at defending himself and in hitting back with Cruz is talking about poll numbers and who's going to beat Hillary. He said, but look, I'm crushing you everywhere, so if I'm going to lose to Hillary, as you say, then you're going to get killed (laughing). So that was good.

But it's clearly true that, you know, Trump on a lot of things does come off to my ear as a lightweight. I mean, the fact that on health care almost the only thing he can say is open up competition across state lines, I agree with that. And even when he states it, he states it using a really awkward phrase: "Get rid of the lines around the states." No one's going to know what that means –

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: – and then he's got really, as –

ROCKWELL: And I think Rubio, by the way, didn't know what it meant. He kept repeating it, and at first I thought, well, he's making fun of it –

WOODS: Yeah, but he clearly didn't –

ROCKWELL: – but then I realized he didn't know what it meant.

WOODS: No, he just means break down barriers to competition, and that's great, but he honestly seems to not have anything else to say about that, and that's not good.

ROCKWELL: And of course all of these people are – and of course he's bad on a lot of stuff, Trump, but all of these people are talking about, well, you can't have socialized medicine. What do they think Medicare and Medicaid are?

WOODS: Yeah, I know.

ROCKWELL: I mean, we've had socialized medicine in this country for a very long time. Maybe it's more properly called "fascist medicine," because it's the big private entities in cahoots with the government rather than state industries. But it's not much to choose from.

WOODS: Well, let's talk about the whole question of being an honest broker between Israel and the Palestinians.

ROCKWELL: Oh, yeah. Well, I was glad to see Rubio mention the key issues: Israel, Israel, Israel, Israel, Israel, and also Israel.

WOODS: Yeah, I was afraid that Israel wouldn't get mentioned, you know, because it features in such a small and insignificant way in these debates. But it did manage to make its way into this one, and you had Trump saying that he wanted to try to be an honest broker between the parties, and he's a negotiator and a dealmaker, and this would be the deal of a lifetime, the deal of a century, and he would love to try his hand at it. And of course, needless to say, in that audience – here was the entire applause: [meager clapping].

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: You know, that was it. Whereas as soon as you say, "You can't negotiate with savages!", well, the whole house comes down and so on and on. Now, I personally, I'm not so sure that situation can be negotiated. I'm not so sure there is a good outcome that we could see, but –

ROCKWELL: Trump has said that, of course.

WOODS: Oh, okay. Yeah, there may be no solution, but certainly there's no harm in trying. But the response from that audience, where it's somebody who says, you know, I'm really going to make a real try to see if I can bring about peace, and it's crickets. And people who are saying, What? Are you crazy? Yeah, we'll make peace as long as they meet all our demands," sort of thing.

ROCKWELL: And Rubio said, you know, you can't be an honest broker when one side is the spawn of Satan and the other one angels from Heaven.

WOODS: Yeah, yeah, that's –

ROCKWELL: I mean, that's essentially what he said.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: And of course that's why the whole Mid East peace process has been such Kabuki theater for so long. It's just all been a fraud, because of course the referee owns one of the teams or is owned by the team or whatever. But it's not (laughing) — the referee is not a referee. He's a partisan. So it's just all been a trick. But it's good to see Trump stand a little apart on that —

WOODS: That was amazing.

ROCKWELL: — and in fact, he was really very good on foreign policy, as usual. I mean, he was again the least interventionist of any of these people. Kasich talked about going to war against North Korea, assassinating whatever his name is, the dictator of North Korea, and causing who knows what kind of catastrophe. And whatever's wrong with North Korea — obviously horrendous stuff in North Korea — what are they doing to us? They've never done anything to us.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: I mean, why are you trying to make trouble? Why are you trying to make trouble all over the world? But Trump said don't make trouble with the North Koreans, in a sense. He said, by the way, we shouldn't have gone into Iraq, shouldn't have gone into Libya, shouldn't be trying to overthrow Assad. These guys are all anti-terrorist. They're all anti-jihadist. And we just made everything worse. He once again said, if only all our politicians had just gone to the beach instead of making foreign policy, the whole world would be better off. Well, you know, that's of course exactly right. So while he's bad on a lot of stuff, he continues to be by far the best on foreign policy in this crew, both Democrats and Republicans.

WOODS: The fact that he just came right out and said the world would be much better off if we had Saddam Hussein in charge of Iraq and we had Qaddafi in Libya. You know, these were terrible people, but at least they killed the terrorists. And combine that with his statement that he'd like to try to bring about peace with Israel and the Palestinians. And again, whether that's a fool's errand or not, the point is that is something you're not allowed to say, certainly in a Republican primary. If he gets away with this, Lew, then this — I mean, we are living in very, very volatile times indeed if he's able to do that, because to say that no political consultant would have urged him to make these points is about the least you could say about it.

ROCKWELL: Well, at least Roger Stone tell us, unlike the rest of these guys who do weeks of preparation — very long days of preparation mock debates, people of course in Marco Rubio's case giving him stuff to memorize — Trump just walks into the debate. Obviously he's thought about it. He makes no preparation and just goes. So I think we can tell from some of his responses that that's the way he does it. But nevertheless there's a certain air of authenticity to that as versus these other guys who

are like French geese being force fed, and then they regurgitate. It's a very different process.

WOODS: All right, let's talk about other highlights. I mean, there were moments in that debate where they were all just shouting at each other, and because of the rule that if you get mentioned or attacked in a statement you get to respond, it seemed like it was going to be an endless loop. There would be no way for Kasich and Carson to get into the debate, and indeed they didn't.

ROCKWELL: And in fact, it was Carson who I must say was funny when he said, "Would somebody please attack me?"

WOODS: I did like that line, and the audience liked that line too.

ROCKWELL: (laughing) As to Kasich, how many times do we have to hear about the 75 years he was chairman of the X,Y,Z committee?

WOODS: (laughing) I know.

ROCKWELL: I mean, come on. I mean, was that supposed to be impressive? These guys, of course, it's interesting, and of course Trump made this point: except for himself and Ben Carson, these guys are all products of the government. They've all spent their entire lives in the government, or in Rubio's case sometimes as a lobbyist to the government. But they've never had a productive minute in their lives. That says something about them. And maybe this is just typical of the political class, but I've never heard anybody make an effective election point about it, so I think it's very neat.

WOODS: I want to get into some more specifics, some more fun moments, but before we do that, I have a quick message, because I am giving away a free book.

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All right, let's spend a little time on Ted Cruz, and before we talk about his debate performance, let's say something about an article you link to at you Political Theatre blog, which I cannot recommend highly enough, at LewRockwell.com. The Political Theatre blog, look for it on the homepage, and you'll be hooked, as I am. I didn't have time to read the link myself, but apparently it's a news story about Cruz urging Rand Paul to endorse him and Rand refusing. What are the details there?

ROCKWELL: Well, it's just that, they use the word "begging," and I think that's correct. I mean, asking again and again and again, and Rand finally saying he's not going to endorse anybody. And I know that earlier Rand had asked Cruz not to run for president so he could have his turn, and of course Cruz paid no attention to him, so I guess Rand must be enjoying this. But why is Cruz wanting that? He wants to appeal to the Ron Paul people in Texas, so he thinks this is a way to get it. He didn't get it; he's not going to get it. Rand is never going to endorse him. But it was funny that he was apparently

asking through himself and through surrogates, again and again and again and again, and finally of course just got the big "no."

WOODS: How about that? I didn't make the connection with Texas in particular, because of course he has got to pull out all the stops on Texas. If he loses Texas, that's a humiliation. Do you have a prediction on that?

ROCKWELL: Well, I tend to think the polls are right in that he's ahead in Texas, which I don't think myself, but if it turns out that he really did help himself in that debate and his attacks on Trump start to take hold, I would say he can win Texas. He probably is likely to win Texas just because he's the senator and a popular senator there.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: So we just have to see. A lot depends on whether — I was glad that Trump started to go after him on his loans from Goldman Sachs and Citibank that he hid that helped him get elected to the U.S. Senate.

WOODS: Cruz didn't say a word about that.

ROCKWELL: No, his wife is vice president of Goldman Sachs, and he's very, very — he's a very connected guy, very establishment guy, who, in order to make himself an anti-establishment guy, set out to bug everybody in Washington. Nothing wrong with that, of course. But he actually, despite the fact that he called Mitch McConnell a liar — and of course Mitch McConnell is a liar — and similar kinds of things, he's an establishment guy. He represents — all of his life, he was an official in the Bush presidential campaign, an official in the Georg Bush administration in Texas, and that's where he comes from.

Also, do Americans really want a president who sounds like a TV preacher? I mean, I find that voice and that demeanor and that sing-songy stuff so off-putting. I mean, you can take it for a little while, but are we going to have to hear that every day for the next four years?

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: I hope not.

WOODS: And his dramatic pauses are too long. They're just like two seconds too long.

ROCKWELL: And of course, like Rubio, he has not sense of humor, which I think is a deadly —

WOODS: Yeah, or he has a bad sense of humor. I mean, he tries, but it just doesn't work.

ROCKWELL: Well, he doesn't know what's funny. He doesn't know what's funny. He doesn't understand.

WOODS: Yeah, I guess that is what your sense of humor's all about. How is it then that he may indeed be hanging on in Texas but Rubio's getting clobbered in Florida?

ROCKWELL: Well, I think that Trump is much better known in Florida. He's a big wheel in Florida with his golf courses and his Mar-a-Lago, and he's got tremendous investments in Florida, and he's been a part-time resident of Florida for years, spent a huge amount of time there. He's just a big figure there. Cruz is a much bigger figure in Texas. But I think everything's very fluid. I think Trump could win Texas. If he does then Cruz can just go back to Goldman Sachs or whatever because he's done. And I think if Marco can't win Florida he's done, and certainly it doesn't look like he's going to, but you know, these things can change. Maybe the establishment is right. Maybe they've finally got the magic bullet that's going to take down Trump. I still continue to think – and I have to credit Michael Savage, and I'm not a fan of his, for pointing this sort of thing out – you know, Cruz looks evil. You just need a pair of Halloween fangs and a black cloak, and he could immediately appear in a vampire movie.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: I mean, there's something very odd and funny about him, his eyes and so forth. That's not his fault, but it seems to me a tough thing in a politician.

WOODS: And by the way, Lew, I'm going to get attacked for this – oh, boy, you people talk about only frivolous things.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: First of all, we don't talk about only frivolous things, but secondly, have you met the American electorate? They tend to make decisions on frivolous grounds. I hate to be the one to break this to you. So after Super Tuesday, what happens? I mean, it looks like Trump is going to win almost everywhere, but yet – so it's likely that people will drop out of the race, but on the other hand, there's got to be one of them who stays in as the anti-Trump. So who's that going to be?

ROCKWELL: Well, I guess they hope it's going to be Rubio, but Rubio certainly can't stay in or believably stay in if he loses Florida, especially by the sorts of margins. And it doesn't matter whether he's asked for Jeb Bush's endorsement in Florida. Oh boy, that'll do him a lot of good.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: And of course they're making all these ads against Trump. These are the same types of people who made all the ads for George Bush and Jeb Bush and similar worthies. They just – (laughing) they're – especially in this year, the sort of oligarchical ad campaigns, they just don't work. People have turned off the ads, and I

think it's a great thing. They see a political ad come on television; they mentally just change the channel if not actually change the channel. So I don't — just like money hasn't worked this time. Of course Trump has spent — relatively speaking, I'm sure he's spent the least money of any serious presidential campaign in many, many decades, so the regular rules don't work.

Sheldon Adelson hasn't given his big donations to anybody. The Kochs haven't given any money to anybody. And you know, they talk about, well now they're really going to go after Trump, and I guess Adelson feels the same way. But can they? Does it make a difference? Isn't that just a big help to Trump if it turns out the oligarchs want to get rid of him? No, I thought it was even interesting that Ross — I don't even know how his name is pronounced. Is it Douthat? Sounds like a good *New York Times*' columnist name — "Do that; do that!"

WOODS: Oh yeah, I know who you mean.

ROCKWELL: So he had a tweet where he said, I know how we can end the Trump campaign, and he had a video up of an assassination of a candidate from a movie. So I thought if he said this about Hillary —

WOODS: — or Obama.

ROCKWELL: — he'd be under arrest.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: He said it about Trump, and everybody's all, well, it's a joke gone bad, you know, don't worry about it.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: But of course there's real hate at the center of the establishment, virulent, virulent hate. It's a climate of hate, as they talked about after the Kennedy assassination.

WOODS: Yeah, exactly, they're creating a climate of hate. But it's so funny that of course if he had done that with Obama it would have been absolutely inconceivable that he had done it just as a joke.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: It must be racism, because no one ever jokes about black people. But of course, yeah, no one dares. No one dares say anything about anybody these days. All right, are there any parting thoughts that we have here about this? I mean, this was a debate that in a way I think people almost had to see for themselves, and if you go to YouTube you will find videos where they take the juiciest parts and they just put them all together. It was extremely lively, let's just say. Extremely energetic. There was no

low-energy Jeb Bush to pull the thing down. It was really, really lively. Are there – I mean, at this point, if Trump really has the success that it looks like he's likely to have, would there be any more debates after this?

ROCKWELL: Well, I guess they've still got debates scheduled, sure, unless of course there's no other candidates, but I don't think that's going to be the case. Carson is going to continue to stay in as long as he's got any money. I don't know about Kasich. He has to worry about his own political standing in Ohio I guess. But Cruz and Rubio, as long as they can stay in, they're going to stay in, and if people make it possible for Rubio, especially with donations to his super PACs, to stay in, then he's going to stay in, and they still have hopes, all of these people, of a so-called brokered convention. Although my own guess is if Trump goes into that convention with a majority of delegates and is denied the nomination, then that'll be the death of the Republican Party, which by the way, of course would be a great thing. But I think they don't quite know what the reaction to such a thing would be.

WOODS: Oh yeah. That would confirm everything that he and the Ron Paul people have been saying for years and years. It would confirm it all.

ROCKWELL: And of course they cheated Ron Paul, and in fact, ironically, the rules that now exist in the Republican Party for running the convention – and evil Paul Ryan is the chairman of the convention – were written to block Ron Paul, to make sure that Ron Paul – they were so petty. What creeps. – to prevent his name from being put in for nomination. They did not want anybody speaking about Ron Paul at the – and then Romney is surprised that Ron Paul didn't endorse him. Well, of course, Romney could have changed his name to Ron Paul; Ron Paul wouldn't have endorsed him, so it didn't matter how he was treated. But they think they can just step on somebody and they're going to lick his boot. That's not Ron Paul, and it's not anybody with any kind of sense of themselves and sense of self worth. So I don't know, apparently there are still people who feel Jeb can be the candidate, come in as the compromiser who can appeal to the broadest – I think that's just nonsense. But actually, a brokered convention, of course from our standpoint, we'd have a lot more interesting shows.

WOODS: Oh my gosh, yeah.

ROCKWELL: It would be a huge amount of fun. There hasn't been anything like this since 1952, when the Eisenhower forces under the lead of the evil Earl Warren, who was made as a thank you head of the Supreme Court, stole the nomination from Robert Taft. What they did was they had the rules committee toss out delegations from states who had been elected by pro-Taft people and install pro-Eisenhower people. I mean, just voted them out, voted the new guys in. My guess is they can't get away with that stuff these days, but they did get away with it in 1952, and that was the last time we had a Republican nominee who was not an interventionist in foreign policy, the great Bob Taft.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: And Ron Paul of course carries on that tradition, and while there's so much wrong with Trump in so many different areas, he does not seem to me belligerent. I mean, I think his personal conduct is exactly the way he'd be as president. If you don't hit him, he's not going to hit you. On the other hand, if you hit him, watch out.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: So I don't like that either, but that's far better than going around the world, overthrowing – as these guys have, all the rest of them advocated overthrowing the government of North Korea. What is going to be the result of that? It's always good to remember, by the way, when we think of the Korean situation, the U.S. has always prevented any kind of reconciliation, any kind of talks, any kind of friendship visits and that sort of thing between North Koreans and South Koreans, because the U.S. always wants trouble. I mean, I'm reminded of the fact that John F. Kennedy had President Diem and his brother of South Vietnam assassinated because it turned out they were having secret reconciliation talks with people in the north. The empire doesn't like that kind of stuff and won't put up with it. So they've stoked all this hostility in Korea. Will it end in some horrific thing where atomic weapons are used? I mean, I hope to goodness not, but who knows? You've got a lot of very irresponsible, crazed neocon warmongers. They really are all flipping out. I have a blog today about Robert Kagan's op-ed in *The Washington Post* –

WOODS: Yeah, I saw that.

ROCKWELL: – which of course is hyper, hyper interventionist, hyper warmongering *Washington Post*. And of course the headline is "Neocon holds his breath, turns blue." I mean, these people are absolutely freaking out, whether it's *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Weekly Standard*, Bill Kristol, all of them. And I must say it's fun to see, anybody who's hated by the neocons can't be all bad.

WOODS: Well, my view is – of course you and I are not going to vote for any of these people –

ROCKWELL: No, of course not.

WOODS: – but I don't see how you could get – I mean, for all the Trump derangement syndrome that's out there among libertarians, I don't see how you could get worse than a President Marco Rubio. How could you possibly? I am absolutely serious here. How could you possibly get worse or scarier than President Marco Rubio out of the existing choices? I don't think you can. And by the way –

ROCKWELL: And yet there are libertarians who prefer Rubio to Trump.

WOODS: Yeah, that amazes me. I don't know what to say. Again, none of us are going to vote for these people, but I –

ROCKWELL: No, of course you shouldn't vote.

WOODS: I mean, basically what you're saying is George W. Bush really wasn't so bad after all.

ROCKWELL: Yeah, no, of course. Far better that we have the George W. Bushes, the Obamas, and similar kinds of guys.

WOODS: Yep.

ROCKWELL: And of course, also by the way, we have to keep in mind, despite the fact that we all assume the president can do whatever he wants, he's the head of a gigantic – the biggest, richest, most powerful government in the history of the world by many magnitudes. The president is not actually in charge of all this. Yes, he can do a lot, but no president is capable of the kinds of massive changes that we would like to see. So a lot of this is a little bit of theater, political theater.

But still, I think just the fact that Trump has undermined the whole PC business that everybody's been indoctrinated in, he's actually made it possible to question it. He's made it possible to question an immigration policy designed to change the American population for purposes of the state and its friends, and no discussion was ever allowed about this. Trump is exactly the right – by his bringing it up, he's allowed a discussion. Nobody is still talking about what it all means, why it began, who supports it and that sort of thing. These are all very controversial subjects to get into, but shouldn't it have been a subject for discussion, that they wanted to change the American population, get rid of the old one, and bring in a new one? I mean, is that – how come the government and its friends can do that, and you're not allowed to ever mention it because, as Kagan said, you're a bigot if you don't have his views on immigration, and of course everything else?

WOODS: There's one more thing I want to say about Rubio I forgot to mention earlier. Yesterday's episode I had Scott Horton on to talk about Syria, and I bet a lot of people who follow politics just really don't understand what's going on in Syria other than we should stay out of it, which is a good enough instinct. But basically the Rubio/Hillary Clinton/Obama/McCain policy in Syria – which is basically the same policy except a couple of them want to double down on it a little bit more, but it's basically the same policy – is so crazed and nonsensical and counterproductive and self-defeating and contradictory and crazy. You can't possibly know how crazy it is, so I would urge people, listen to that episode. That's at TomWoods.com/602. This one's TomWoods.com/603. Listen to that episode with Scott Horton, and you're just going to say, oh my gosh, we've got to get out of there.

ROCKWELL: Tom, I'll just say that you're absolutely right that it's crazy and self-defeating and all that from the standpoint of a person of goodwill and a person of intelligence –

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah.

ROCKWELL: – but from the standpoint of a destructionist, from the standpoint of people who want killing, who want destruction and feel their power can thereby be increased and they can remake the world, this is all the great stuff. The killing, the destruction, Christians who've been living there since the time of the Apostles being thrown out of their homes, entirely purged from Iraq, from Syria, you know, they're for all this stuff. They like it. They're bloodthirsty monsters, and Marco Rubio is definitely one of them. Or maybe he's too stupid to be one of them, but he's in the control of these people.

WOODS: Yeah, and you know, what you just said, Lew, is going to seem over the top to some people, but when you hear Scott talk about it it's the only option left, because there's no policy reason to be doing what they're doing. Again, I don't want to spoil it. People should listen to that episode. It's shocking. So you are left with the conclusion that these people must think and just be different from the rest of us. There's no other way to describe it. All right, well, listen, let's hope for our sake, Lew, that there will be future debates, that they won't all just drop out and we'll be able to talk about this, because I would hate –

ROCKWELL: (laughing) Stay in! Stay in!

WOODS: Exactly. I would hate to have to wait for the general election to do more of our debate shows, but I'll tell you, that's going to be juicy (laughing).

ROCKWELL: I noticed that Chuck Todd said the other day that Hillary would be missing the Clinton impeachment scandals if she were running against Trump, because she would be looking back on those days as the good ol' days, because he would definitely engage in a scourged Earth policy. And he also said that Bill Clinton had been complaining privately that his favorables had been reduced from 51 to 39 by Trump's one Instagram picture. He tweeted and send out an Instagram photo of Clinton and Bill Cosby together and said, "Two of a kind."

WOODS: Ohh, ohh.

ROCKWELL: That one act by Trump had dramatically diminished Clinton, and of course they're terrified. And Todd said, you know, they all wanted Trump as the opponent. Now they're all terrified of Trump and what he would do to them.

WOODS: Because think of the things he says offhandedly to Cruz and Rubio, and multiply it by 100, and think of the things that he'd be saying about Bill Clinton. Now of course, again, none of this has to do with policy or whatever. It's just in terms of watching one wing of the establishment get taken down. Well, you know, it might be amusing to see. All right, well, Lew –

ROCKWELL: All I'm saying is my guess is we have great debates to look forward to, even better than so far.

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah, I think you're right. All right, Lew, thanks for your time today. I always appreciate it.

ROCKWELL: Thank you, Tom.