



Episode 746: Trump's Missed Opportunities: Lew Rockwell and Tom Discuss the First Presidential Debate

Guest: Lew Rockwell

WOODS: Before we get started, can you tell us what you're planning to do with the Political Theatre blog after the election?

ROCKWELL: Well, I think I'm just going to see what people want by how much they read. So there are people who want to continue it. Especially if Hillary is in the White House, there'll be a lot of stuff to talk about. But with Trump in the White House too, there's — I guess. So it may continue if there's readership. It gets great readership now, and that's what's going to determine if I'm going to continue it. If people are not interested, don't read it, then I probably will not continue it, so I'm just going to let the people be the judge.

WOODS: All right, how about that. Okay, so we'll — well, I vote for you continuing it, but that's for my own selfish reasons.

ROCKWELL: You get more than one vote, Tom.

WOODS: (laughing) I appreciate that; thank you very much. All right, what's your overall impression from last night?

ROCKWELL: Well, I think that Lester Holt was of course in the tank for Hillary, like all the networks. I think just from the visuals, I thought it was very interesting to see the two faces side by side during the entire debate. I thought that Trump, whatever was wrong with his facial expressions, was all honest. You could tell what Trump was thinking by looking at his face.

Hillary was entirely phony. I mean, not only — what did they do to her while she's been away? Botox or is it some kind of Hollywood trick where they get rid of all her wrinkles and her jowls and her pouches and so forth? Or is it just super duper pancake makeup from outer space? I mean, something happened, and she looks like a younger Cruella de Vil. She had a nice hairdo, and she pretended to be "ha ha ha ha," laughing the whole time, "yes, this is funny." And that of course was phony, because you know like Glenn Beck she would have loved to stab Trump if she'd gotten the chance, and she certainly has killed a lot of people in her life, so I guess she must get a charge out of that. So there was that.

I think that she did a better job of sort of in the traditional sense, and this was her 40th debate of this sort, Trump's first. On other hand, he did nowhere near as well as he could have. I think he didn't go after her about the Clinton Foundation, which she's going on and on, for example, about all the world leaders she saw and the travels she took, and he could have said "how many of them bribed you through the Clinton Foundation?" And he talked very little about the emails, and he didn't talk about all the things wrong with her. And of course he said that he didn't bring up personal stuff. He could have said, when she's talking about she's mean to women, why didn't he say something like, "You know, Hillary, we have to look at your record of attacking the women your husband had victimized, again and again and again."

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: That's all. He didn't have to bring up details. That would have been enough. It would have knocked her off. She was pretty much on topic the whole time. I think that would have knocked her off, since Lester Holt was never going to ask anything like that.

But what happened — I don't think any Trump voters changed their minds; I don't think any Hillary voters changed their mind. But if you were paying attention to her — how shall I say this? Trump just seems more of a human being; she's more of a robot, and a very nasty robot. And I wish he'd talk about how of course he would renounce a first strike, but I think we all understand that she's the one most likely to start a nuclear war. She's going on and on about Russia and espionage. He should have said, you know, you leaked far more national security things in your emails.

And as to — I thought at the very end when he was asked if he would support her if she won, would he accept the results, I think he should have said, "well, I think of course if the electoral college votes that way or if it's a tie, the House of Representatives, yes, I would accept those results. But if the election had been rigged, exactly as Mrs. Clinton did to Bernie Sanders and stole the nomination from him in the state of California and other places, as clearly revealed in the leaks to the DNC, and I urge everybody to look at those leaks, even though Mrs. Clinton doesn't want you to — "

You know, and I think he should have, when she was going after him about how he hates women and so forth, I guess he couldn't have said this, but what I would loved for him to have said was, "I know it's the first rule of feminism that 'don't you dare ever treat a woman any differently than a man,'" but by the way, don't ever criticize a woman." So he's said plenty of guys are fat and ugly and so forth, and that's his style. Nobody cares. But when he says it about Rosie O'Donnell, it's supposed to be a hate crime of gargantuan proportions.

I also think he should have come back at her when she called every single white American a racist. So in other words, everything that's wrong with many aspects of the country, it's the white man's fault — the straight white man, of course. So he has been the one guy to talk against political correctness. I wish he'd done that.

So I think this was the first one. There are two more to go. He's got a chance to hone his game, and my guess is he will. I think he listened to some bad advice about treating her in this professorial manner or whatever. And he should have gone after

Lester Holt. I think it's — she called him, by the way, "Donald" during the entire thing. He always called her —

WOODS: "Secretary Clinton."

ROCKWELL: — "Secretary Clinton" and so forth. And he called Lester Holt "Lester." He shouldn't have called him "Lester." He could have called him "Mr. Holt." It makes him easier to attack him, and he should have attacked him because people love it. Americans don't trust the media. They don't like the media. I don't know if you saw the hilarious article in *The Washington Post* saying don't call us the media; we're not just all one blob; we're all individual newspapers and TV stations all seeking the truth and so forth.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: (laughing) Well, they are a blob. So he should attack the media, he should attack her, and she certainly got out the knife and tried to slit his throat right at the end in the most personal and nasty way, showing for a moment the real Hillary peaking out of that mask of pancake. And so I think, my guess is he learned. I don't know whether this is Kellyanne, his campaign manager, responsible for this. My guess is it's not the Breitbart guy. But I think he'll do better the next time, and I think this didn't change anything. And as Joe Bob Briggs pointed out, if we judge this by the *Rocky* standard, he's still standing after a fight with somebody who's far more experienced, and he said he had to sort of give it to him on points for that reason.

So I don't know. I was disappointed in a lot of what he didn't do. I was disappointed in some of the things he did do. I wish he talked about the Fed more. I wish he talked about what's wrong with NATO more. I wish he talked about — he did bring up the Fed, so that was excellent. And Hillary, who of course has said no president and no candidate for president should ever even discuss the Fed because it could roil the markets. Well, yeah, right.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: So he could have talked about — maybe he could have talked about how it looked like Janet Yellen and Hillary were separated at birth. I guess he couldn't talk about that, but it's — so he brought up some good things; he didn't bring up enough good things. My guess is he'll do better. He's a learner. He's smart. Maybe he had bad advice. Maybe it was his own introspection. But I think two and three are going to be a heck of a lot more interesting.

WOODS: All right, let me go through some of the points you made. First of all, I want to tell people I am very, very sorry to have to say this, but for the second debate I won't be able to do a debate episode, because the theme cruise that Bob Murphy and I are hosting sets sail that very day, and we ain't going to be watching no presidential debate aboard the Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: That's not going to happen. But we will make sure and get to the third one. And maybe to do penance, we'll do — Pence for Penance, we'll call it, as Lew calls it. Maybe we'll do the vice presidential debate. All right, yeah, I want to review some things you said here. First of all, yeah, the media, "we're not a blog; don't call us the media." Okay, I'll call you "the blob." I think "blob" is preferable.

Secondly, mention of the Fed by a candidate roils the markets. Well, first of all, that is a great argument against the Fed.

ROCKWELL: Yeah.

WOODS: And secondly, that shows what a delicate flower our economy is right now. You can't even talk about one institution without ripple effects through the whole thing?

ROCKWELL: The Fed needs a safe space.

WOODS: Yeah, you're darn right. Apparently so. I agree with you on "the women of Clinton" thing. That should have been automatic. As soon as she raises the claim that he's anti-woman, I mean, that should have been now you launch into your —

ROCKWELL: Yes.

WOODS: And that goes to show, frankly, I am tired of people who say I don't really need to prepare for a debate. I'm just going to go in there and speak off the cuff. No, I feel like you owe it to the people who follow you, and you owe it to the ideas that you say you believe in to prepare as solidly as you possibly can. And it is not something to boast about, that you don't prepare for a debate. That is not something to boast about. You should be able to be human and totally in command of the facts. Totally in command. He's letting her get away with everything. He's letting her get away with "the 2008 recession was caused by stupid people like you who want to lower taxes."

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: What? You're going to stand there and let her say that.

ROCKWELL: Yeah.

WOODS: I mean, you should give her an impromptu 30-second lesson on what really happened. And talk about Chris Dodd, if you want. You could talk about how bipartisan — do whatever you want, but you don't stand there and take that. Then also, I was surprised — she looked in — I have to say, she looked in robust health.

ROCKWELL: Yes.

WOODS: She didn't wither after 90 minutes. She didn't have a coughing fit. She didn't have anything. Now, Tom Mullen, who's been a guest of the show a couple of times, said his suggested question that Lester Holt should ask to both candidates is, "Can you tell us what medications both of you have taken in the last 24 hours?"

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: But Lester chose not to ask that particular question. All right, let's now jump into some particular things. It's of course very bad that Trump more or less agrees with her on paid medical leave. I did an episode on the problems with that, and I'll link to that at TomWoods.com/746, the page for today. So I've already covered the economics of why paid family leave is actually not a good thing, and as usual it's a case of "we're helping families," but you're not really. But then Hillary kept on talking in her discussion of her economic plans about investments: "we want to make investments."

ROCKWELL: Uh huh.

WOODS: Green energy and infrastructure. So these are all basically fake jobs, because once that job is — well, certainly infrastructure. Once that job is over, then what does the guy do? He's built a bridge to a job he doesn't have on the other side. What does he do? There's nothing long-term about that. It's all fake. And her criticism was that Trump allegedly believes in so-called trickle-down economics, where you give tax cuts to the rich and that stimulates the economy. He could have come back and said, "How many people in this audience have been hired by a poor person. Can anybody tell me that?" Just something simple so that they see his point. But again, he just sat there and took that. And he didn't say, "Man, your investments are nothing like my investments that actually turn a profit; they're just a bunch of political hacks rewarding their friends. It's all cronyism." But again, missed opportunity. Sailing right over, because unfortunately what he has very much in abundance in terms of enthusiasm, he just lacks in terms of intellectual curiosity. It's very, very disappointing. He was letting her get away with murder last night.

ROCKWELL: And of course she has gotten away with murder.

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah, I know. I meant more figuratively this time.

ROCKWELL: (laughing) Oh.

WOODS: But you're right; he mentioned the Fed, that it's political and that we're in a big bubble.

ROCKWELL: Yes, yes.

WOODS: That's more than any other candidate.

ROCKWELL: She didn't dare come back at him over that.

WOODS: Not a word.

ROCKWELL: So I thought that was interesting.

WOODS: Yeah, not a word. Now, what do you think about the tax return thing?

ROCKWELL: Well, I think it hurts some, but I don't think it's — I think he let himself get rattled by it. He should have been prepared for it, and he should have — you know, he could have said, as you pointed out, "You release your Goldman Sachs speeches; you release all your deleted emails. I'll release it even though my lawyers tell me, well, we're under audit; it's not smart to do it. But I'll go ahead and do it." I don't think — you know, I don't think people are going to vote or not vote for him based on whether he's released his tax returns. On the other hand, it discombobulated him last night, of course with the help of Lester Holt too.

And I don't think he handled the birther thing well. I wish he hadn't ever addressed it to begin with. Some people say that was Mike Pence responsible for him wanting to address it. He just should have said — I mean, he could have said something like — this would be very hot — he could have said, you know, "We know less about Barack Obama than any president we've ever had by a mile." So there's lots of stuff. We don't know anything about his family; we don't know anything about his background. We just know the little press releases that the government and media have put out for us. So is he a citizen? Well, okay. But I'd like to know about his background. I mean, what's the real truth about this guy. And I think it's probably a good idea that he said that the Clinton campaign, although he did it ineffectively —

WOODS: Very ineffectively, yeah.

ROCKWELL: — was responsible for putting this out.

WOODS: Yeah, it took him forever to get going.

ROCKWELL: Yeah, and of course it was — and he did mention that hilarious photo of Obama looking like Aunt Jemima in his Somali gear.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: So there's a lot to say. We know nothing about Barack Obama's background. So why is that? It's not because there are all kinds of great things about him they're hiding. We don't know anything about his career in this country; we don't know who promoted him all along, how he was available to go to the most expensive private school in the country. His mother clearly a CIA asset, if not an operative. Obama comes from a very suspicious background. Very suspicious. And that's why it's not covered. So I guess he should have gone on the attack. He should have said, you know, "You're calling on me to release my tax returns. How about releasing everything about Mr. Obama's background, which you people have so successfully hidden?" Obama's not a popular guy. Anybody who loves Obama — how shall I put this? — is never voting for Donald Trump. So I think — of course he would be called a racist and all that, but he's called that anyway. So I wish he had gone after that. He shouldn't have let her get away with it.

He should have talked about — when he talked about "it wasn't the Russians," he should have said, you know, a lot of people think it was the poor guy who was mysteriously murdered, the insider at the DNC who actually was responsible for the leak. But you'll notice that Mrs. Clinton talks all the time about the Russkis did it. It's

like the Cold War monster coming out of the swamp; it's like something from the '50s, her very dangerous rhetoric in all of this. But she doesn't want you to look at what was in these leaks. It's how the DNC operates, the corruption, and the theft of the Bernie Sanders nomination, certainly the theft of Bernie doing much, much better than he was alleged to have done. And at the end he should have said, "If the election was clearly rigged — yes, I'll support her, but there's nothing wrong with investigating what happened and in talking about it, and I'm just not going to sit down and salute her if I feel that she and her cohorts have stolen the election. She's stolen elections in the past. We have to wait and see. And the whole idea about whether I support her or not, the question is did the American people actually support her, and my guess is no, they won't have supporter her if you people in the media and the government all claim she won."

WOODS: Yeah, I mean, he did mention Bernie Sanders briefly.

ROCKWELL: Not enough.

WOODS: I think he could have stuck the knife in a bit more on that.

ROCKWELL: Oh, not enough, not enough.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: And he did say that he's got the 56 neocon warmongers who had an ad denouncing him, Republican neocon warmongers. And he could have said, you know, "your fellow neocons, your fellow warmongers." He didn't go after her for being a very dangerous warmonger. She wants all these wars, and it's morally bad, it's dangerous for the whole world, it's bad for the economy. So he didn't do what he ought to have done. I won't say he didn't do what he had to have done, because I think he's got time in the subsequent debates.

On the other hand, will as many people be watching this? I don't know. I did notice, for example, in the Drudge poll afterwards that he won, of course, with Drudge. But it seems to me that many fewer people voted in this than had voted in the primaries, and my guess is when we see the stats on the viewership, we'll see that a lot of people tuned out of this. I think relatively few people watched the whole 90 minutes. Tom, there were points at which if I hadn't been doing the show with you this morning I wouldn't have watched the whole thing.

WOODS: No, of course. No, neither would I.

ROCKWELL: Very boring and stupid.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: And of course the audience was packed for her. They were not supposed to cheer and applaud her, but of course they did. And I don't believe for a minute that was a happenstance.

WOODS: Right.

ROCKWELL: So on the poll question, I did enjoy the ABC.com poll that showed the Trump won, Gary Johnson came in second, Jill Stein third, and Hillary fourth.

WOODS: Oh, okay (laughing).

ROCKWELL: So that's my favorite poll.

WOODS: Yeah, that's a pretty good poll. I remember — normally I don't disclose the contents of emails people send me, particularly you, but last night we were confirming about today and the time that we were going to do it, and you came back with, "So boring." (laughing) I thought, okay, that's Lew's opinion as well, so I'm allowed to think that.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: All right, let's just pause for a quick message from our sponsor.

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All right, Lew, there was a section of the debate on race, and again, I thought Trump was a bit weak here. Now, as you said, he should have responded to Hillary's thing about, look, we all judge people and we're all racists and so on. He should have said, "Look, folks, if there are a lot of you in America who feel like you haven't yet been hectored enough by people who call you a racist, then she's your candidate. If you want four years of that, then you've got it."

ROCKWELL: And I thought he could have said, "Ladies and gentlemen, she just called every person in America one of the deplorables."

WOODS: Yeah. I mean, jump at an opportunity like this.

ROCKWELL: Yeah.

WOODS: So that was — she's handing this stuff to him on a silver platter. And so I tweeted out a few things about what a disappointing debate performance it was, and I had all these Trump people — but I mean, like, right-wing, like, alt-right Trump people, who are smart enough to know better, telling me what a traitor to America I am by pointing out that he should be crushing Hillary more than he is.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: I'm sorry; that doesn't make any sense.

ROCKWELL: He didn't crush her at all, unfortunately.

WOODS: Yeah, exactly. That's the problem. I mean, why can't you say that?

ROCKWELL: Should have wiped the smirk off her face.

WOODS: Yeah, totally, totally.

ROCKWELL: And he could have.

WOODS: Yeah, he totally could — and for heaven's sake, I don't know if — Roger Stone at the very least, who's not ideologically a libertarian, but he knows what works. Why is he not coaching him? Why is he not preparing him for this stuff? If that's the — that's probably the best guy in his orbit for something like this.

ROCKWELL: Well, you're right. No, Roger's the man.

WOODS: Yeah, so he should have been doing this.

ROCKWELL: He has to be on the attack. He has to be careful because she's a member of an official victim group, but he should have attacked her. Everybody hates her. I think even a lot of the people who are for her hate her, even though — they don't like her. You know, who — ? We needed a little bit more of the real Hillary. If the folks remember when she was recorded cackling like a witch, stirring the pot about the murder of Qaddafi, the horrendous torture-murder of Qaddafi.

WOODS: Yeah.

ROCKWELL: This is Hillary. We know that there's the famous Clinton corpse list, all of the people who've died mysteriously and unexpectedly after exposing the Clintons or preparing to tell the truth about the Clintons. This is a very nasty bunch. She's — I was going to call her like a mafia leader, but I don't want to criticize the mafia. She's a government leader. I mean, she's a killer. She's a monster. She's a witch, and you've got to expose that, and again, wipe that smarmy smirk off her face.

WOODS: When the subject turned to race relations and inner cities, Trump, it took him forever to get there, again, but he finally pointed out — he said, politicians have failed these place. Politicians, politicians, politicians. Of course what he should have been saying, since he's running as a Republican, is "democrats, democrats, democrats."

ROCKWELL: Yes.

WOODS: Now, those people probably are not going to vote for him, people living in those cities, chances are, because they generally don't vote Republican. But if he could have just said, "Just look at your life. Look around you, and this is the fruit of 50 years of Democrats governing you. Is your life so great right now that you would say 'I can't possibly risk this? Look at what they've done to you. Look at the squalor you live in. You're telling me you're not willing to roll the dice one time after what these people have done to you. Hillary, you have no excuse. Look at these cities. Who's been in charge of these cities? Not Republicans. What possible excuse could you have for this?' And again, nothing.

ROCKWELL: Yes.

WOODS: He said nothing like that. So again, for people who say, oh, Woods, how dare you be critical of Trump, he's the great savior of America — but he would be an actual savior of America if he would actually say some true things when push comes to — especially when she was saying "how can Donald be so down on the black community? Why, they've got the black churches and black businesses." And of course he wouldn't have said something this hot, but, "Oh yeah, Hillary? Name me one that you're going to move into, because I'll help you move. I'll get you a moving van. Tell me which one you're going to move into, because they're all so wonderful after 50 years of Democratic rule. I'll bet you'll be moving in next week given all the vibrancy that's there." Now, of course he can't say it quite that way, but you can something edgy.

ROCKWELL: Well, you can say that's certainly why you lived in a walled house in Chappaqua.

WOODS: Right, exactly.

ROCKWELL: The all-white Chappaqua.

WOODS: Instead he allows her to get away with murder, even on that.

ROCKWELL: And for that matter, Obama's moving to an all-white gated community in Southern California after he gets out of the — right?

WOODS: (laughing) How about that?

ROCKWELL: He's not moving back to the South Side of Chicago. He never lived in the South Side of Chicago, but —

WOODS: Yeah, how about that?

ROCKWELL: But no, I think you have to — yeah. And of course you're exactly right. Democrats have run all of these places, run them into the ground. So Donald, you've got two more chances. You'd better take advantage of them.

WOODS: (laughing) Exactly.

ROCKWELL: Tom is exactly right. Prepare. Get Roger Stone in there to spend a couple days with you and prep you for cutting her off at the knees. And you can do it without having people say, "Oh my gosh, he criticized a woman; how dare he do that?" Or he criticized a black moderator. Lester Holt was clearly on the Hillary team. There are even some people who think — and I mean people who might be in the know. I can't say anymore than that. Some people feel that she didn't necessarily know the questions in advance, but she sort of knew how things were going to go in advance. And you know, people, if she's going to be the president, you have every reason to try to curry favor with her. So did Holt or somebody else in NBC do that? It's very possible. She's certainly — but again, you're right; she prepared heavily for this. This is the 40th such debate she's done, and in this she knows what she's doing. But she is so vulnerable. Donald, listen. Replay what Tom has said in this interview. Listen to what he's saying. She's very vulnerable, but you have to take her down.

WOODS: And look, it's like at this stage of American history, that's all you have against Hillary. I mean, I know you have Gary Johnson, but I mean, in terms of somebody who's going to come out swinging, unfortunately this is it. So I'd like to see him do well just because she's such a — she needs to be crushed, basically. And then we'll deal with him later. But she's got to be crushed in front of a live audience.

ROCKWELL: Plenty wrong with him of course, but I think we both agree that she's far more dangerous, not only for our own country but for the whole world. And I think there's a number of things wrong with her, not just physically, but morally and spiritually. She's a killer. She loves killing. These of course are oftentimes the people who rise to the top in the state. So far as we know, Donald Trump has never killed anybody. She's killed tens of thousands of people, maybe many more than that. She certainly has cheered on the killing of millions of people. So what a nasty person. Donald, it's your duty, your moral duty to take her down. So listen to what Tom is saying and go after her. And of course the media's going to say, oh, oh, my gosh, you misogynist, you dared to criticize a woman.

WOODS: Doesn't matter.

ROCKWELL: You know what? Nobody cares what the media is saying.

WOODS: Nobody.

ROCKWELL: Nobody.

WOODS: I mean, bear in mind Hillary gave that Albright speech where she basically said "this guy is attracting white supremacists on a huge scale and blah blah blah." And he's still ahead in the polls. So that goes to show to me, yeah, it'll still ruin your career if people call you certain names, but, wow. She pulled out the worst thing you could say about anybody in our society. Much worse than saying you're a libertarian.

ROCKWELL: (laughing)

WOODS: You can say you're a libertarian and you still can have a decent career. You can't say you're in the alt-right and still have a decent career, and yet his poll numbers didn't — if anything, they moved up slightly, because people are sick and tired of it. So that's one favorable thing, that maybe we'll have actual arguments and discussions with each other from now on, instead of pointing and shouting, hey, this guy's a so and so. All right, well, where are his arguments wrong? Can you do that? Because when you just point and call people a name, it makes me think they might have a good argument, so why don't you actually deal with the arguments for a change?

Then on the NATO thing, it's unfortunately another characteristic of Trump that there are times when he'll say something that's pretty good, and then he walks it back or he does the opposite or he hires neocons for his foreign policy team. Or he says NATO is outdated and we don't need or something, and then he says, oh, I just meant its mission should be updated; we need to go after terrorism; it should follow us into the Middle East. What is the matter? It's a totally out of date, now bellicose alliance against an enemy that no longer exists. How many more of these do we need? Then he can go

into his thing — even though our bridges aren't going down, as David Stockman points out. If he wants to go into that routine he can say, "Our bridges are falling down; we've got all these problems. The last thing in the world we need is to be fighting against phantom enemies." Say that.

ROCKWELL: Well, it's exactly true, and I guess he can't say that the actual purpose of NATO is of course the US occupying Europe and controlling Europe. That is the purpose of NATO from the very beginning and had nothing to do with stopping the Russkis. I mean, as you know, the Soviet Union was economically pathetic. It never had the ability to roll into Western Europe and take over those countries against the US and the Europeans. That was nonsense. Even today, Russia's got the GNP of Italy. How about pointing that out? The idea that, oh my gosh, they're threatening the world and they're going to take over, and you know, it's just like, I don't know, we're listening to *Dr. Strangelove* again. It's time to look at that movie. Or *Fail Safe* or *Executive Action* or *Seven Days in May*, some of those great movies from the '60s. Maybe it's all happening again.

Trump is the only hope for stopping Hillary. He has to stop Hillary. If he doesn't, I didn't like that pathetic mark that he'll be on Pennsylvania Avenue even if it's just in his own hotel. Well, yeah, okay. He's got to take her down. And he's gotten this far. He beat all the other Republicans into the ground, and he obviously is a brilliant guy. He's not an intellectual, which is okay, but in general if you're going to do this you've got to have the right advisors, and you've got to learn the right things. This is a guy — you don't build a skyscraper by not preparing for it. Anything he does in his business life he is extremely detail oriented, extremely well prepared, knows every single thing that's going to happen, knows where every dime is being spent. That's why he's so successful. But he's not treating this like that. He has to treat it again like he's building a building.

I will say just a very funny thing that I got from Linh Dinh, who's the Vietnamese-American writer, funny quotes from Trump right after 9/11, right after the fall of the buildings, and very funny comments from him about how these buildings were made — funny in retrospect. And the immense amount of steel they had, why the windows were so small in these buildings, because they had vast amounts of steel on the outside. He said that's virtually never the case. Usually the steel's just around the elevator shaft. He said these buildings were — he just didn't understand. He said there had to have been explosions in the building — this is, by the way, a couple of days afterwards, before this became illegal to discuss this. He said there have to have been explosions or something else was going on. He said there's no way a plane could even get into the building through the steel structure of these buildings. So just from an expert in building skyscrapers talking about these buildings, this has never been — I don't believe he's ever discussed this again. Very, very interesting. I'll put that on the Political Theatre blog today, his comments. To get into something even more politically incorrect, Tom.

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah.

ROCKWELL: If you can stand it.

WOODS: Yeah, I can more or less stand it. I — (laughing).

ROCKWELL: I don't actually know what happened. The only thing I just will point out, like my views of the Kennedy assassination and so many other things, my view of 9/11 is I don't believe the government story. As to actually what happened, I don't know. But I always assume the government is lying, especially in instances like this. So they're not always lying, but it's a safe assumption that they are lying until proven truthful.

WOODS: Yeah, that's a good starting point. Yeah, why not?

ROCKWELL: Trying to think when was the last time they were proven truthful on how a war started or why they need a particular spending program. There's no wonder Hillary's been successful in politics. She's such a demagogue and a liar. She's got to be stopped, Donald. It's your job. You're the only one who can do it. Get going.

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah, right, right.

ROCKWELL: Listen to Tom Woods. Call Tom Woods in as an advisor, as an economic advisor and as a campaign advisor.

WOODS: (laughing) Well —

ROCKWELL: Then you'd be sure of victory. Tom —

WOODS: I just want some entertainment here. That's what I want. I know the political class will brush the dust off themselves and continue and carry on in one way or another, but in the meantime I at least want to see some interesting fireworks, and unfortunately we didn't get that just yet. All right, Lew, I'm going to of course urge people to check out LewRockwell.com, in particular, and when you get there, click "Political Theatre," because that's where the real sparks fly a lot of times over there. Thanks a lot, Lew. Let's get — what's the order now? So the next one is October 9th, and then the vice presidential debate, or is it — ?

ROCKWELL: Yes.

WOODS: Is that — ? Oh yeah.

ROCKWELL: I believe that's right. By the way, I'll do something on my podcast. It'll be —

WOODS: Oh, okay, good.

ROCKWELL: Won't be as good as having Tom Woods on, I should say.

WOODS: Oh, that's nice. Well, look, I'll direct my —

ROCKWELL: I'll do an autopsy and I'll probably have somebody who I'll be interviewing too.

WOODS: Okay, I'll try and direct some people over to that.

ROCKWELL: Maybe we can get the satellite to beam to the ship. We'll have to see.

WOODS: It's not so much that I physically couldn't do it from the ship; it's that I refuse to watch a presidential debate while we're there.

ROCKWELL: No, you're going to have a great cruise, you and — this is the Contra Krugman cruise.

WOODS: It's the Contra Cruise, that's right. Oh yeah, it's going to be tremendous. Bob Murphy —

ROCKWELL: You and Bob Murphy, everybody's going to have a great time.

WOODS: Yeah, except Krugman.

ROCKWELL: And you people who didn't buy the ticket, tough luck.

WOODS: Yeah, that's right. You'll just have to wait and see if we choose to do another one. All right, Lew, thanks a lot. I don't know, maybe there should be a Political Theatre cruise or something. Because you know what's funny, I'll say before we finish, the cruise is happening basically three weeks before the election. So the cruise company, which also does the cruise for *National Review* and I think maybe *Weekly Standard*, they were saying, well, you sure you want to do it then? Aren't your people going to be out campaigning or out involved in different races? I said my people want to get on a ship and get the heck out of here during this time. You don't know our people. So anyway, we've got a great bunch of folks. All right, Lew, thanks a lot.

ROCKWELL: Thank you, Tom.