## Trump versus Harris: an assessment by Phillip W. Weiss

Contrary to reports, Trump totally dominated the Trump-Harris debate. He lambasted Harris who had produced no comeback to Trump's numerous attacks. Trump never sounded better and stronger. Trump directly called Harris a liar and directly and repeatedly blamed her for US foreign policy failures, such as the failure to deter the Ukraine War and the botched exit from Afghanistan, and directly and loudly and clearly and REPEATEDLY told Harris to her face that she supports defunding the police, is opposed to fracking, failed to close the southern border, wants to wreck the country, is weak, doesn't know what she is doing, and even chided her to go the White House and order the border to be closed.

Harris did not deny any of Trump's charges. Trump was like a huge freight train that Harris could not stop. The whole debate was about Trump. In response, Harris accused Trump of being a bad guy who wants to be a dictator and has lost the support of many Republicans. Trump blew away all that garbage saying that he had fired most of those Republicans, unlike Biden who doesn't fire anyone when they do a poor job. In reply to Harris calling Trump a convicted felon, Trump resoundingly launched into a direct attack on the weaponization of the legal system to stop him from running and that all his cases will be thrown out.

Harris did not deny Trump's comments. In fact, Harris did not deny any of Trump's numerous attacks. That debate was vintage classic Trump, probably his best performance. He stayed calm and focused on the issues, brushed off all of Harris's attacks and lies, and ended the debate with a two-minute lambasting of Harris.

What was so remarkable, however, was not the debate itself, which was an intense encounter, but Fake News' false and misleading reports about it. Fake News spun the debate as a close affair with Harris generally getting the better of Trump when in fact it was Trump who totally dominated the event and reduced Harris to ventilate and drive home his points, the main one being that Harris os wrecking the country and will destroy the country if elected. Trump delivered that message loudly and clearly.

Now there is report of another assassination plot against Trump, this time at his private golf course at his home in Florida. Apparently, the Secret Service saw someone pointing a rifle from shrubbery, shot at the man holding the rifle who fled and later was arrested by local law enforcement. Now, this has reignited criticisms of the secret service and raised questions of the Secret Service's commitment to protecting Trump.

The fact is that there is no way that anyone can guarantee Trump's safety. The best that can be expected is for the Secret Service to stay vigilant and reject the complacency that leads to serious errors.

Compared to Trump, Harris is a footnote, an asterisk. Trump commands all the attention. The election is all about Trump. The whole world is waiting for Trump to be re-elected. Harris is not even in the conversation. The Harris campaign has gained no traction. All the political talk is around Trump.

2

Harris does not attract voters. She comes off as shrill and whining. Please understand that Harris does not generate feelings of scorn. Rather, she lacks charisma and a coherent policy. She is linked to Biden, who Trump loudly proclaims is the worst POTUS in history, a charge that Harris does not deny. In fact, no one even hears about Biden anymore. It is as if the country is without a POTUS. Biden is now an absentee POTUS creating a power void that Trump ias ready to fill.

PWW 9/17/2024