

The Republican National Committee declared Republican Vice-President Candidate Mike Pence the winner of the vice presidential debate.

Their media release said, "The consensus was clear after the dust settled, Mike Pence was the clear winner of the debate. Pence's top moments in the debate were when he spoke about the economy and highlighted Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's scandals." Only problem was, this was released two hours before the debate even started.

But, if we are all being honest, most of us had our minds made up before the debate anyway. Democrat Kaine seemed abrasive and combative to me, the way Trump has acted during the Primary Debates. Republican Pence seemed more composed than either Trump or Kaine. Kaine did not address any of the accusations leveled at Hillary. Pence did not address any of the accusations leveled at The Donald. Pence may be staging himself for the 2020 presidential campaign.

An abbreviated version of Trump's tax returns has been leaked to the media. It seems to question his success as a businessman and show he has legally avoided paying income taxes. "That's what many people are saying. I don't know. That's what I hear." But that seems to have little impact on Trump's loyal supporters.

Late night comedian Jimmy Kimmel interviewed Trump supporters on the street, in a comedy segment he calls LIE WITNESS NEWS. His staff told Trump supporters outrageous lies about the tax returns, that The Donald had claimed a gold plated toilet as a business expense, that he had written off the purchase of a Siberian Tiger as a gift to Vladimir Putin, that he donated Fifty Thousand dollars to the Jared Vogel defense fund. None of these were questioned by Trump's loyal base.

For the record, I assume Trump did nothing dishonest in his tax returns. He has squads of attorneys and accountants to take advantage of every loophole to minimize his income tax obligation. That's business.

And tax returns are private. The IRS won't release them. But every president since Richard Nixon has released their taxes, to show the public they have nothing to hide. Trump promised in February of 2015 to release his income taxes. Still waiting.

So, what about Hillary's loyal supporters? The same thing could be said. I have tried to learn about the claims against her. I looked at Trump's website, Lying Crooked Hillary. I only watched an hour of the eleven hour Benghazi Senate Hearing and I have not read the 800 page report summarizing the 2 year investigation. But the Republican controlled process failed to result in any formal charges.

E-mails? Clinton screwed up, showed poor judgement and then tried to minimize the situation. She has apologized. Again, another Republican controlled process resulted in no charges. I am still wading through the Trump website.

Anyway, the next Presidential debate is this Sunday, October 9th, at 6 p.m. and I am happy to announce that, "after the dust cleared, it is the consensus that Clinton is the clear winner."

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment