A U.S. MONEY DEBATE

CHARACTERS:

Moderator

Announcer

Trump

Hillary

Bernie

Ben Franklin

MODERATOR

Good evening America. Welcome to the 2016 Presidential Money Debate. And here are our candidates.

TRUMP

Make America great again!

HILLARY

Stronger together. We can overcome our problems together.

BERNIE

Ready to start a political revolution?

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. May we discuss the banks?

MODERATOR

All right there, Ben. Hold your horses. We’ll get there. We’ll get there. First, a word from one of our sponsors.

ANNOUNCER (in voice of hawker at a carnival)

# And now, ladies and gentlemen, our sponsor, Citibank, has this message for you. CITI THANKYOU® PREMIER CARD. Earn 3 points for every $1 spent on Travel ….2 points for every $1 spent on Dining Out…. Can’t beat this friends! 1 point for everything else. $95 annual fee WAIVED! for the first 12 months! So much free. Free. Free. Freedom. Fabulous freedom. Fall into financial freedom….. LIVE YOUR LIFE! LIVE YOUR LIFE! LIVE YOUR LIFE! (voice trails off)

TRUMP

The banks? I recommend Deutsche Bank. I owe them 100 million dollars.

HILLARY

The banks? I got paid 3 million dollars in 2013 for giving speeches to Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank, and HBCS.

BERNIE

Break up the big banks. No more Too Big to Fail.

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. Can we discuss the bank’s debt-money?

MODERATOR

Whoa now Ben. Let’s not go THERE. We’re not going to touch THAT, are we? First, a word from one of our sponsors.

ANNOUNCER (in voice of executive, carried away by his experience, plumbs the depths of his feelings )

# When I failed at my first business, I moved back in with my parents…. I thought my dreams were over… It takes failing, I think, to know how to succeed….. Welcome to a new generation and the journey ahead…. Wherever it takes you….. membership….believe….. American Express card….. The journey never stops…. The journey never stops…. (voice trails off saying ‘journey never stops’ over and over)

TRUMP

Debt-money?

HILLARY

Debt-money?

BERNIE

Debt-money?

BEN FRANKLIN

Yes, debt-money.

(each of candidates accents the words ‘DEBT’ and ‘MONEY’)

TRUMP

Right. I got into DEBT when I borrowed MONEY from the bank.

HILLARY

Right. I got lots of MONEY from the bank when I gave speeches and so I’m in DEBT to the bank for paying me millions just to talk.

BERNIE

Everybody knows - we all deposit our hard-earned MONEY in the banks, and the banks give us loans to put us in DEBT.

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. You do know that banks create money when they make a loan?

TRUMP

Well….

HILLARY

Sort of…

BERNIE

Beats me…

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. Banks don’t loan out their depositors’ money. Banks ALWAYS create the money for the loan by typing an accounting entry into the borrower’s account. It is brand new money.

TRUMP

Why didn’t I become a banker?

HILLARY

I’ll take their money in any form. No problem.

BERNIE

Yes, let’s regulate the banks. You don’t know what they will do next.

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. There is more!

ANNOUNCER

Damn!

TRUMP

Fuck!

HILLARY

Asshole!

BERNIE

Doody!

MODERATOR

Anyone in the audience have Robert’s RULES OF ORDER? Listen, Ben, you’re out of order here. And, anyway, we have another commercial from another sponsor.

ANNOUNCER (in voice of female CEO)

Goldman Sachs is committed to progress. Progress happens when neighborhoods can rebuild, cities can revitalize, and small business owners can learn new ways to prosper. After Hurricane Katrina, we at Goldman Sachs began to ask, ‘What can we do?’ Since 2008, Goldman Sachs has committed over $300 million to help revive New Orleans. We, at Goldman Sachs, are proud to be part of the comeback of New Orleans. (sound of Dixieland Band fades)

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. The banks create their DEBT-MONEY for the principal of the loan. They NEVER create the DEBT-MONEY for the interest on the loan. This system keeps money SCARCE.

TRUMP

Banks can’t do everything.

HILLARY

They’re very busy keeping the world running. They’ll get to it.

BERNIE

Where’s my economics advisor?

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and ladies. All the borrowers from the banks – you, me, consumers, businessmen, corporations, federal government, state governments, municipal governments, foreign governments, hedge funds, investment bankers, real estate developers, stock brokers, foreign currency speculators, pension funds…. (trails off) Have I left out anyone?

TRUMP

Landlords?

HILLARY

Lobbyists? Foreign dictators?

BERNIE

Mortgages?

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. Thank you. Now think of this.

The money for all this INTEREST DOES NOT EXIST! But we all have to pay interest on our loans!

TRUMP

No problem here. A smart business decision.

HILLARY

You got to give the bankers credit. They’re able to keep our entire economy running even with all these problems.

BERNIE

We need a financial transaction tax which will reduce Wall Street speculation

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and ladies. See how secret and how clever this system is! For everyone to pay the interest, more loans must be made by the borrowers. This money system of PRIVATE DEBT-MONEY was designed so that loans must constantly be made. More and more debt.

MODERATOR

Ben, I’m sure you’re exaggerating. They’re not that bad. And, we have another commercial from another sponsor.

ANNOUNCER (in voice of sexy woman)

Edward Budd, Deutsche Bank’s Chief Digital Officer for Global Transaction Banking speaks to all of us…. “Erwarten Sie mehr von Ihrer Bank”.

TRUMP

Great business plan.

HILLARY

I’ll have to include something like this in my next speech to the banks. They might just pay me to shut up?

BERNIE

We have to get our priorities right.

MODERATOR

Mr. Franklin, excuse me sir. This sounds to me like a conspiracy theory.

TRUMP

Conspiracy against America.

HILLARY

Conspiracy to keep America weak.

BERNIE

I was never good at theories.

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. In my day, the Bank of England was doing this DEBT-MONEY trick.

We English colonists were not going to be stuck with such a system. So, with my help, we introduced DEBT-FREE PUBLIC MONEY into all the colonies. Each colonial legislature issued paper money called SCRIPT and spent it to pay for expenses of the colony. It was accepted for taxes. It circulated in the colony to create jobs and prosperity. Does that sound like a conspiracy?

TRUMP

I failed American history. American History first!

HILLARY

I wasn’t taught that at Wellesley or Yale. American History together!

BERNIE

We need free education in this country. Nobody should come out of college in debt. American History for everyone!

BEN FRANKLIN

Gentlemen and my lady. We must take back the power to create money from the private banks, back into the hands of the government. Our government will be able to create money – without debt – for education, health care, infrastructure. Banks can continue to lend money, but it must truly be money deposited into the bank, not created. Banks will get out of the business of governing.

TRUMP

Well…..let’s find those immigrants.

HILLARY

Ahem….let’s find those terrorists.

BERNIE

(cough)….let’s find the American dream.

MODERATOR

And now, ladies and gentlemen, a word from our sponsor, JP Morgan Chase.

ANNOUNCER

Find out how J.P. Morgan Chase and the Education Endowment Foundation have joined together to launch a new million-dollar initiative to offer young people greater access to economic opportunity.

MODERATOR

(aside) God, I hope it’s not with DEBT-MONEY.

And, now, candidates, your last word to our audience and the world!

TRUMP

Make America great again!

HILLARY

Stronger together. We can overcome our problems together.

BERNIE

Ready to start a political revolution?

BEN FRANKLIN

Bernie, really glad you said that. You know more American history than you know.

The colonies would gladly have borne the little tax on tea and other matters had it not been that England took away from the colonies their debt-free money, which created unemployment and dissatisfaction. This was the prime reason for the revolutionary war.

MODERATOR

Thank you, America. You have now heard the candidates. Do your duty and vote.

(aside as lights go down) Who invited Ben Franklin? I thought he was the author of Poor Richard's Almanac? Christ, someone is going to get drilled in half for this…..and it ain’t gonna be me.