A U.S. MONEY DEBATE

CHARACTERS:

Moderator/Announcer - SUE NOTE: LAURA PLAYED JILL STEIN TRYING TO

Trump - GARY BREAK INTO THE DEBATE. THIS WAS

Hillary - PHOEBE AN INPROV BY LAURA (AND HYSTERICALLY

Bernie - MATTHEW FUNNY)

Ben Franklin - DIANE

MODERATOR

Good evening America. Welcome to the 2020 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. First, a word from one of our sponsors.

ANNOUNCER (with HAT)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, our sponsor, SHITYbank, 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 …. 7 points for every $20 spent on dog food!... 9 points for every $13 spent on beer… 33 points for every $19 spent on condoms?

TRUMP

The banks? I recommend Douche 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 (HAT)

# When I failed at my first business, I moved back in with my parents and thought my dreams were over… But then I discovered American Express card. Welcome to a new generation and the journey ahead…. The journey never stops…. 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 (HAT)

Goldman Sachs is committed to progress. After Hurricane Katrina, we at Goldman Sachs began to ask, ‘What can we do AND ….. We commit our money … no, I mean our bank…. to loan… no, I mean to help, the heartland of Dixieland music.

BEN FRANKLIN (respectful but angry!)

Gentlemen and my lady. The banks create their DEBT-MONEY for the loan’s principal. 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 to the banks!

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. 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…. (SING WITH MELODY OF GERMAN MARCH) “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 (ATTACKING)

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. 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.

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. The real cause of our American revolution was that England took away from our colonies the right to **CREATE** our debt-free money. 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.