



ENQUIRY

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Who is Jim Webb?

By **WILL UTZSCHNEIDER**
STAFF WRITER

One man clearly was out of place at the Democratic debate stage in Las Vegas last week: Jim Webb, former Senator from Virginia. He stood at odds with most of his party on many of the issues.

Webb grew up as the son of an Air Force officer, moving around several times before graduating from the Naval Academy in Annapolis. He later fought in Vietnam, winning a Navy Cross among other awards. He would later serve as Secretary of the Navy under President Reagan. After less than a year, he resigned from that position because he believed the Pentagon wasn't spending enough on defense. In 2006, he ran for Senate in Virginia, and served one term.

He has a history of tension with those in his party. For twenty years, he refused to shake John Kerry's hand after Kerry accused Americans of committing war crimes in Vietnam. During President Clinton's infamous pardon spree in 2001, Webb said, "It's a pleasurable experience to watch Bill Clinton being judged for the ethical fraudulence that has characterized his entire career."

"I am where the Democratic Party traditionally has been."

Webb has espoused stances that are markedly different from those of most Democrats. His views on foreign policy and tax policy, for example, conflict with those of many Democrats today.

In discussing his foreign policy position at the debate, Webb was at odds with many of his fellow Democrats in condemning the recent Iran deal. He has explained that he believes it will allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon. He has also advocated standing up to China over its aggression in the South China Sea.

When the conversation in the debate came to affirmative action, Webb expressed his opposition to affirmative action for non-black minorities. He said that his intention for the program is to elevate the level of consciousness of the hardships of African Americans. In 2010, he wrote an op-ed stating that affirmative action discriminates against whites.

On taxes, he believes "we cannot tax ourselves to prosperity," a position strikingly different from that of Bernie Sanders. He proposes cutting the corporate income tax and simplifying the tax code. He opposes raising taxes on ordinary earned income.

Webb even supports building the Keystone XL pipeline and, as a senator, voted to temporarily block the EPA's power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

There was something honorable in his answer to the

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Europe's Refugee Dilemma

By **WILL SWETT**
STAFF WRITER

The plight of Syrian refugees evokes sympathy from Western onlookers, but the refugee crisis is less about the refugees' crisis, and more about the dilemma Europe faces in dealing with them. It would have been politically (or ethically, based on your disposition) infeasible to keep the hundreds of thousands of beleaguered migrants stopped indefinitely at the Hungarian border. It was up to Germany, as the destination of most of the refugees, to decide how to resolve the issue.

There is nothing for the EU to do other than bear the burden until peace returns to the Middle East.

Angela Merkel's grand welcome to the fleeing refugees, although moving, will have huge consequences for Germany and Europe as a whole. By offering residence to any refugees to arrive at its border, Germany encouraged hundreds of

thousands more people, who had until then decided to stay, to join the exodus.

Merkel's announcement prompted a surge of Iraqis to also travel to Europe. Instead of applying for asylum from the region they are trying to leave, as people are normally required to do, waves of migrants are arriving at the border of Germany expecting to be granted residence.

Unfortunately for Europe's largest economy, 1.5 million asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan are estimated to enter Germany before the end of the year. Short of mass deportations on a tremendous scale, there is nothing for the EU to do other than bear the burden until peace returns to the Middle East, and the migrants can safely return. Even then, however, returning people to their homes would not be likely, considering that most refused to register at the EU point of entry in either Greece or Italy.

The EU ruled that asylum seekers are to be distributed

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This Week's News in 140 Characters

EDITORIAL REPORT



Allahpundit @allahpundit · Oct 14

Depressing that there's no constituency in the U.S. on either side for a President Jim Webb

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Existential Comics @existentialcoms · Oct 17

Whenever someone tells me how they live authentically, I'm just amazed that someone's authentic true self could be that insufferable.

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Political Math @politicalmath · Oct 13

PolitiFact rates the national anthem as "Mostly False"

167 152



Jonah Goldberg @JonahNRO · Oct 13

If Sanders was serious about running for president, it'd be very easy for him to go after Hillary on her Wall Street ties.

114 110



David Freddoso @freddoso · Oct 13

Chafee: We need someone with high ethical standards.

Cooper: Do you want to answer that?

Clinton: No.

146 91



jimgeraghty @jimgeraghty · Oct 13

After commercial break: "We're sorry, viewers, the debate has now run past the bedtimes of half the candidates."

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EUROPE'S REFUGEE DILEMMA cont.

Jeb's Tax Plan: Good for America?

By **ALEX KLOSNER**
STAFF WRITER

After the global financial crisis, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The stimulus package was supposed to "jumpstart" the recovery and bring the American economy back to prosperity.

Instead, the economy has been growing at a lethargic 2%. Labor force participation remains low, and the underemployment rate remains high. The Obama administration has meanwhile added \$8 trillion to the national debt.

Last month, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush released a tax plan that would simplify the tax code and increase economic growth. His plan would reduce the number of tax brackets from seven to three: 10%, 25%, and 28%. The standard deduction would nearly double for all filers.

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final question about the greatest enemy he has ever made. He was the only candidate on stage to list not a fellow American, but an enemy soldier who threw a grenade at him in Vietnam, during which Webb shielded a fellow Marine from being hit by the grenade and exposed himself to suffer serious injuries. Unlike the others' answers, Webb's wasn't based on political animosity or intended to score points. Instead, it showed a sense of genuine selflessness and bravery.

Webb summed up his place in the primary in saying, "I am where the Democratic Party traditionally has been." He is both a relic of the southern conservative Democrats, and also somewhat resembles former Senator Henry Jackson, who was more hawkish on national security issues. Both of these are elements that the party has slowly gravitated away from over several decades.

To be sure, Webb will not be the Democratic Party's nominee. He happens to be running at the wrong time, and perhaps in the wrong party.

W. SWETT *cont.*

evenly among other member states with binding quotas. Many countries, however, are resisting the quotas, understanding that a large influx of poverty-stricken people is not good for national stability, especially with the current opposition movement to immigration from predominantly Muslim countries.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron has preached caution in admitting refugees into Great Britain. Cameron said that Britain "would be overwhelmed" if it opened its doors to every refugee. By opposing the EU's decree, countries are taking steps to avoid repeating Merkel's mistake, and are trying to discourage prospective migrants from making the journey to Europe without being accepted beforehand.

European nations are understandably hesitant to take a massive number of people into their country from populations that often violently oppose the Western values of tolerance, human rights, equality, and democracy. In Germany, some refugee communities have already begun clashing with German citizens.

Violence has even broken out among the refugees themselves, leading a German police chief to insist that Christian refugees be housed separately from Muslim refugees. Two separate fights

broke out between Muslim and Christian refugees that left 14 people injured. During one instance, a fight broke out among 200 Syrian and Afghan refugees at a shelter in Leipzig in which migrants fought "wielding table legs and slats." The German police will be under enormous pressure as the number of refugees entering the country continues to mount.

Another concern influencing countries such as Great Britain to refuse entry to the refugees, is the risk that some applicants are sympathetic to Islamic terrorist groups. The black market for Syrian passports is booming as people are trying to take advantage of an opportunity to get into Europe. Unfortunately, it leaves open the opportunity for Islamic militants to enter European nations with relative ease if they do not already qualify for asylum status.

There's not much for Europe to do to alleviate this crisis. It's too late to relocate the refugees to Syria's neighbors, not that the other Middle Eastern countries would have accepted them. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain have refused to take a single refugee, citing the risk of terrorism. Although Turkey already has 1.8 million refugees, it declined to take in any of the migrants who made their way to Europe.

Europe has nothing left to do but welcome the people crossing the border, try to disperse them evenly so they disrupt as few communities as possible, and hope that peace will come soon in Syria—as unlikely as that may seem—to stem the flow of refugees.

A. KLOSNER *cont.*

The plan expands the earned income tax credit (EITC), eradicates the estate tax, and eliminates the marriage penalty. Overall, 15 million more Americans would no longer have an income tax liability. Jeb's proposal to reduce the top rate from 39.6% to 28% would mirror the top rate under Reagan's administration. The plan would also prohibit massive deductions by wealthy individuals except for charitable contributions.

Jeb's plan encourages domestic investment by eliminating the outrageous tax burden on corporations. The United States has the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world at 35%, which Jeb would lower to 20%, the same rate paid by corporations in the United Kingdom. In order to increase

productivity and wages, Jeb's tax plan would allow businesses to deduct new capital investments. Elimination of most corporate tax deductions would compensate for the lost tax revenue.

Jeb has a record of implementing sound tax reform.

According to the Tax Foundation, Jeb's tax proposal would create 2.7 million full-time jobs and increase wages by 7.4%. Analysis by Kyle Pomerleau, an economist at the Tax Foundation, indicates Jeb's plan would increase GDP by 10% in the long run. The tax cuts would result in a \$3.66 trillion loss in revenue over the next 10 years. But the economic growth generated by the tax cuts would shrink the revenue loss to \$1.6 trillion.

Any administration would face difficulties passing tax reform legislation, but Jeb has a record of implementing sound tax reform. As governor of Florida, Jeb cut taxes every year in office. During his tenure, Florida added 1.3 million new jobs, median household income grew by \$1,300, and the state's economy grew at an average rate of 4.4% every year. Despite consistent tax cuts, Jeb balanced the state's budget 8 years in a row. During his time in office, Jeb saved Florida taxpayers \$19 billion, the most of any governor seeking the Republican nomination.

Democrats have argued that Jeb's tax plan disproportionately favors the wealthy. While it's true the wealthy would benefit from Jeb's tax plan, low income Americans benefit as well. Expanding the EITC would offer relief to working-class Americans without raising the minimum wage. With a workforce participation rate of only 62%, broadening the EITC would tackle the problem of government dependency and encourage people to enter the workforce.

Despite criticism of his tax plan from both the right and left, Jeb is one of the few candidates to produce a practical and comprehensible tax proposal. Mike Huckabee has proposed a fair tax, but offers few details in what he calls a "tax revolution" that "eliminates the IRS once and for all." Ben Carson, one of the current GOP frontrunners, has proposed a flat tax of 10%, and also suggests abolishing the IRS.

But does anyone genuinely believe the federal government can do without the IRS? A nation of 320 million people with the size, scope, and complexity of an \$18 trillion economy requires some sort of government agency to collect revenue.

Unlike his opponents, Jeb Bush acknowledges that the IRS and a progressive income tax system are here to stay. His proposal offers practical solutions to simplify the tax code, help working Americans, and increase economic growth.

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EVENT: Academia and the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Movement against Israel



William A. Jacobson of *Legal Insurrection*
Hosted by Hamilton Israel Political Affairs Committee | HIPAC
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 20 | Red Pit