

# G. A. Beller

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### **THIS PRESIDENTIAL RACE HAS BECOME A PISSING CONTEST: THE DISCLOSURE STALEMATE**

By: G. A. Beller

Donald Trump does not want to show his tax returns. Hillary Clinton does not want to disclose the contents of her Wall Street speeches nor the names of The Clinton Foundation donors. Based upon campaign finance laws, as well as the laws relating to conflicts of interest, all candidates owe it to the voters to make public this type of information. Notwithstanding the ongoing accusations, each candidate will attack their opponent's lack of compliance. I suspect we may never see any of this information. The candidates will continue to deflect their own lack of production by pointing fingers back at the other.

This reminds us of when we were little kids challenging our curiosity. *I'll show you mine if you show me yours.* But this is serious business, and the two presumptive nominees are throwing sand at each other in the sandbox of our election process.

Hillary Clinton skillfully avoided Bernie Sanders' repeated requests to disclose to the public the contents of her highly paid speeches to Wall Street firms. Her response was to deny the credibility of his demands because he didn't disclose his most recent tax return. Of course when he did disclose his tax return, she still did not comply with her disclosure. "*Why should Hillary be required to disclose the contents of her speeches,*" you might ask. The answer is simple. Secretary Clinton, if you want our vote, we want to know what you are representing and promising to Wall Street in exchange for their payments to hear you speak. The fact that Ms. Clinton is stonewalling on this issue should raise the concern that the speeches contain information she wants to keep from the voters. Trump should insist, as Bernie Sanders did, that the contents of her speeches should be released to the public. I seriously doubt they will ever see the light of day.

Clinton's current attacks centering on Trump's non-disclosure of his tax returns are totally reasonable. Clinton boasts of the filing of the Clinton tax returns going back decades. Well, isn't that just convenient? Hillary Clinton is willing to let you see what she knows won't raise serious questions, but should. Is The Clinton Foundation being used as a slush fund for the Clintons' expenses, both personal and for her campaign, as suggested in a recent bestseller, *Clinton Cash* by Peter Schweizer? If so, we are back to the donor disclosure issue. I suspect Trump will press this issue hard in the general election, and as well he should. Unless a full investigation of the Clinton Foundation donors is pursued, hell will freeze over before this information is ever disclosed. Trump will most likely, and justifiably, claim he will produce his tax returns when Clinton produces the content of the speeches and the donor list. She will say, Trump won't disclose his tax returns. I suggest this will continue without either side complying with full disclosure to the public.

Stay tuned. This is a political campaign for the ages. Theatre at it's finest. Repeat after me, STALEMATE!!!!

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