

ROUND 2 GOES TO...

The second presidential debate between Mrs Hillary Clinton and Mr Donald Trump was noted for its mud-slinging and sting. Mr Trump, in particular, went after Mrs Clinton with everything he had as he sought to recover from a damaging leak that portrayed him as a lecherous misogynist. ST's US bureau chief Jeremy Au Yong rounds up the punches.

LEAKED TRUMP TAPE

HE SAID: I'm very embarrassed by it. I hate it. But it's locker room talk.

SHE SAID: I think it's clear to anyone who heard it that it represents exactly who he is.

WHO WON:

The leaked tapes which recorded Mr Trump talking about groping women inflicted substantial damage on the Republican candidate ahead of Sunday's debate, and Republicans were hoping a contrite Mr Trump would douse outrage. Instead, his dismissal of his remarks as locker room talk ensures that the issue will still be in the news for days to come.

CLINTON'S E-MAILS

HE SAID: If I win, I am going to instruct my attorney-general to get a special prosecutor to look into your situation, because there has never been so many lies, so much deception.

SHE SAID: It's just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in our country.

WHO WON:

The exchange was clearly won by Mr Trump and provided one of his strongest moments of the night.

WIKILEAKS & ABRAHAM LINCOLN

SHE SAID: It is hard sometimes to get the Congress to do what you want to do and you have to keep working at it. And, yes, President Lincoln was trying to convince some people, he used some arguments, convincing other people, he used other arguments.

HE SAID: She lied. Now she's blaming the lie on the late, great Abraham Lincoln... Honest Abe never lied... That's the big difference between Abraham Lincoln and you.

WHO WON:

Another good line from Mr Trump as Mrs Clinton tried, clumsily, to explain a leaked e-mail where she purportedly says she needs a public and private position on certain issues.

ISLAMOPHOBIA

HE SAID: We have to be sure that Muslims come in and report when they see something going on. When they see hatred going on, they have to report it.

SHE SAID: We are not at war with Islam... It plays into the hands of the terrorists to act as though we are. So I want a country where citizens like you and your family are just as welcome as anyone else.

WHO WON:

The question on Islamophobia was asked by a Muslim-American woman and presented an opportunity for Mr Trump to reach out to a minority group he has alienated. But he decided instead to double down on his rhetoric.

TRUMP'S TAXES

HE SAID: I pay tax, and I pay federal tax, too. But I have a write-off, a lot of it is depreciation... I love depreciation. You know, she (Mrs Clinton) has given it to us.

SHE SAID: People like Donald, who paid zero in taxes, zero for our vets, zero for our military, zero for health and education, that is wrong.

WHO WON:

This was another exchange won by Mrs Clinton owing more to Mr Trump's own actions – that he avoided paying income tax – than any of her attacks.

MUTUAL PRAISE

HE SAID: She doesn't quit. She doesn't give up. I respect that... She's a fighter.

SHE SAID: I respect his children. His children are incredibly able and devoted, and I think that says a lot about Donald.

WHO WON:

After sniping at each other for 90 minutes, an audience member asked the candidates to say something nice about each other and both managed to come up with decent answers.

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