

Republican hopefuls debate gets testy

by UPI

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. -- A two-hour debate among eight Republican presidential hopefuls in St. Petersburg, Fla., was filled with free-wheeling accusations and denials. The CNN/YouTube debate was Wednesday night, five weeks ahead of the first contest of the 2008 nominating season and topics submitted ranged from immigration, the Iraq war, abortion, gun control and the Bible. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani locked horns over immigration, each accusing the other of distorting their records. Giuliani, who leads current polls, was on the defensive for much of the debate, which The Washington Post said ended with "no contender gaining a clear edge." Almost 5,000 video questions were submitted by the public via the YouTube Web site, as Democratic White House candidates did in July, and 34 were chosen for the candidates to answer.

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