

## Thompson faces first presidential debate

by UPI

NEW YORK -- Former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., admitted he's a bit rusty as he prepared for his first debate against rival Republican U.S. presidential hopefuls. Thompson entered the race in late summer, choosing to skip previous debates where his rivals sized each other up but is to be on the stage Tuesday in Dearborn, Mich., for a debate among the men seeking the Republican nomination for president. The event is to be televised on CNBC and rebroadcast on MSNBC. Thompson, a television actor and former U.S. senator from Tennessee, has been rehearsing for the debate with Alfonse M. D'Amato, the former senator from New York, playing the role of rival Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, the Times reported. Videos of Thompson debating years ago shows he moves from polished and measured to mocking and angry, the Times reported. During recent campaign stops Thompson has fumbled on some issues. He didn't know, for example, of the fight over oil drilling in the Everglades and he referred to Russia as the Soviet Union, the Times said.

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