

“I Wasn’t Happy”

I wonder if you are as bored as I am by presidential campaign speeches, and especially the so-called debates. No matter what the question, they just repeat the same banal lines again and again. I did glance at part of the debate on October 8, 2004, but only because Mary was out that evening and she asked me to record it. Imagine my surprise when President Bush made a statement so startling that I had to replay it to make sure I was quoting it verbatim.

It happened about six minutes into the debate. In answer to a question about WMD in Iraq, President Bush first responded with, **“We all thought there was weapons there, Robin.”** That misstatement did not surprise me; we had heard it many times before. Not sure whom he meant by “we.” One might have hoped the more rational members of his administration would have questioned it. But whatever, we certainly would have expected them all to breathe a huge sigh of relief when none were found. What came next, then, was the real shocker, when the President added: **“I wasn’t happy when we found out there wasn’t weapons.”**

Many of us suspected that he and his fellow warriors secretly hoped to find huge stockpiles of such weapons, but I never thought we would ever hear him admit it on national television. My reaction was: just wait until the eleven o’clock news picks up on that huge blunder! But, alas, not a word. Could they all have missed it, or is there some other explanation?

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