

e sa a

SUM... DATED: FRIDAY OCTOBE...
BY...
CA... AS A SENIOR
CO... ER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AT RICHARD
ST...
THE...

IT I...
sta...
wit...

The...
y s...
e...
c...
d...

'Not my time'

While conceding that as a result of the encouragement from national figures he did, indeed, undergo a period of reconsideration, he concluded that "It is not my time," hinting that at some point in the future, it would be.

He said he was indebted to the people of New Jersey for placing their trust in him and he was not about to turn his back on them after less than two years in office. He was, he said, duty-bound and obligated to see his agenda through, and leaving office midway through his first term would amount to a breach of faith.

He was in command of the news conference, a man fully at ease with the decision he'd reached and revealing not a shred of regret. He held, he said, a job he'd dreamt about and thoroughly enjoyed. His responses to reporters' questions demonstrated his skill at the give-and-take of debate as he mixed wit and humor with serious insight and understanding.

Bedazzled

His demeanor and charm were on full display and it was easy to understand how the audiences he's addressed around the country were bedazzled and won over.

On a more practical political note, though, he surely must have heard and taken note of the expressions of annoyance from supporters of the declared candidates that his prolonged silence was creating an unneeded atmosphere of uncertainty and contributing to heightened media speculation that the Republican field doesn't inspire much confidence.

At one of those rare moments when a sitting president appears deeply vulnerable, a crisis of confidence isn't helpful.