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TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION."*

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

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GUESTS: Mr. HOWARD WOLFSON
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Representative CHARLES RANGEL
Democrat, New York

Senator JAMES WEBB
Democrat, Virginia

Mr. ROGER SIMON
Chief Political Columnist, Politico

MODERATOR/PANELIST: Mr. Bob Schieffer – CBS News

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FACE THE NATION - CBS NEWS
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BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, Hillary Clinton ends her campaign.

Senator HILLARY CLINTON: Today I am standing with Senator Obama to say yes, we can!

SCHIEFFER: But will her supporters back Obama? Senator Clinton gave Senator Obama an unqualified endorsement yesterday, but what happens now? We'll talk with one of her top advisers, Howard Wolfson, and one of her most dedicated supporters, Representative Charlie Rangel of New York.

Then we'll turn to Senator Jim Webb from Virginia, which could be a key battleground state. He's already being mentioned as a possible Obama running mate. Roger Simon of Politico will catch us up on the McCain campaign, and I'll have a final word on Hillary Clinton's best day.

But first, the race for president on FACE THE NATION.

Announcer: FACE THE NATION with CBS News chief Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer. And now, from CBS News in Washington, Bob Schieffer.

SCHIEFFER: And good morning again. Joining us, the Clinton communications director and top adviser Howard Wolfson; in New York, Congressman Charlie Rangel. We're going to start this morning with Howard Wolfson.

Well, I must say, we saw a very different, it seemed to me, Hillary Clinton yesterday. She was relaxed, she was reflective. Why was she different, or did we just see her in a different way, do you think?

Mr. HOWARD WOLFSON (Communications Director, Clinton Campaign): I think people have seen her in a different way throughout this campaign. I think there's been an evolution. I think if you look at the last, let's say four months of the campaign, where we began winning in Pennsylvania and Texas, she's actually closed extremely well. We don't have to relive it, but, you know, she ended up winning more states and more primaries and more votes over the last four months. So she closed extremely well, and I think you saw that yesterday when she gave a really magnificent speech and a very full-throated, hearty endorsement of Senator Obama.

SCHIEFFER: Well, she really did come all out for him. I can't imagine that the Obama people could want any more than what she said yesterday. She said she's going to work her heart out, but what does that mean? What is she going to do?

Mr. WOLFSON: Well, it means that she'll do whatever the Obama campaign and Senator Obama want her to do. She'll do whatever she can and whatever she's asked to do to elect Senator Obama president. I mean, the stakes are that high. She's exhorted her own followers and her own supporters, 18 million of them, to vote for Senator Obama, to work for Senator Obama, to give money to Senator Obama, because she knows that the only way that we continue the progress she's been working for her whole life is to elect Senator Obama.

SCHIEFFER: Have they talked--I know they met the other night. Have they talked yet about what her role will be, and what her--the role of her husband will be?

Mr. WOLFSON: They did speak and I'm sure they're going to speak again, and she's willing to do whatever she can, whatever she's asked. And I'm sure President Clinton feels the same way. She'll do whatever she can for Senator Obama.

SCHIEFFER: What do you think Bill Clinton will do and what will his role be? Do you have any idea at this point?

Mr. WOLFSON: I think he, too, will do what he's asked to do. I mean, he's been a Democrat his whole life. He has a very unique perspective on how important it is to elect a Democratic president. As Senator Clinton said, in the last 40 years we've only had two Democratic presidents, only three elections in which we've elected a Democrat. Think how different the country would've been if we had elected more Democrats. And we're going to do that this time.

SCHIEFFER: The obvious question, does she want to be on the ticket?

Mr. WOLFSON: It's not a job that she's seeking and it's not a job that she's campaigning for, but she has made it clear during the campaign and now that she will do, as I've said, whatever she can and whatever she's asked. But this is Senator Obama's decision. It's his decision alone. I'm sure he'll make a good decision based on what he thinks will be best for the ticket.

SCHIEFFER: But what you're saying this morning, if he asks, she'll accept.

Mr. WOLFSON: She has said during the campaign and she says now that she will do whatever she can and whatever she's asked. But this is Senator Obama's decision; it's totally up to him.

SCHIEFFER: What do you think the main problem is going to be for Barack Obama going into the fall?

Mr. WOLFSON: You know, I'm very optimistic actually about our chances in the fall. I think Barack Obama ran an amazing race. He energized enormous numbers of Americans to come out and vote. And I think that we can't afford a third George Bush term. John McCain is running to be the next George Bush. We can't have that in this country. The economy is spiraling into recession, John McCain says more of the same. We've got terrible problems in Iraq, John McCain says more of the same. We need a fundamental change, a fundamental break, and I think Barack Obama offers that and I think the American people are going to respond very affirmatively to that.

SCHIEFFER: Clearly, we saw in a lot of these contests he appealed to one set of Democrats, she had appeal with another set of Democrats, these blue-collar, lower income Democrats. How does he get those people?

Mr. WOLFSON: Well, look, I think he's going to do everything he can to reach out to Senator Clinton's supporters. Senator Clinton is going to do everything she can to make sure that her supporters support him. You know, this was a long primary, there were moments of some bitterness, but overall I think that the party is unified. We're going to be together because the

stakes are too high not to be. I think Senator Obama's going to begin, I understand, an economic tour in the next couple of weeks where he's going to really focus on the problems that George Bush has created for this economy, offering new ideas to take us away from the Bush/McCain policies. That's the right way, I think, to appeal to a lot of the voters who supported Senator Clinton.

SCHIEFFER: Well, thank you very much for joining us this morning, Howard Wolfson.

Mr. WOLFSON: Thank you. Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: We've enjoyed dealing with you during this long campaign.

Mr. WOLFSON: Thank you, sir.

SCHIEFFER: We're going to turn now to Congressman Charlie Rangel. He was one of those who was with Hillary Clinton in the very beginning. He was also one of those last week who said it is time to shut the campaign down and time to move in behind Barack Obama.

Well, Senator Rangel--I mean, Congressman, Chairman Rangel, it would be hard to see how she could have done more than she did yesterday. Were you pleased with the way her speech went?

Representative CHARLES RANGEL (Democrat, New York): More than pleased. And I may feel awkward that I was a little impatient in terms of her not endorsing on the night that we knew that Obama was the nominee, but in afterthought, and seeing how great that speech was, I don't know whether emotionally she would have been prepared to give such an exciting, overwhelming speech, which I think will go down in history as one of the best political speeches we've had.

SCHIEFFER: Should she be on the ticket?

Rep. RANGEL: Well, like Howard said, that decision has to be up to the next president of the United States. He has to feel comfortable, there has to be chemistry there. They have to make certain that they know which area of the vice president she will be covering. But from a personal view, and I may be too close to the forest, I think it is an absolutely unbeatable ticket and I think it would be terrific for the country.

You know, we have two history makers here. I mean, an African-American, it's improved our reputation throughout the world and certainly in our country. And to have a woman come that close, like 18 million scratches on the glass ceiling. That combination, I think, is just revolutionary, exciting and can't wait to get started.

SCHIEFFER: I guess the question that some Democrats have is do her negatives outweigh the positives? One of those who said that you would just be bringing a lot of negatives in if you put her on the ticket was former president Jimmy Carter. What do you say to him?

Rep. RANGEL: Well, I say I don't think the press has been entirely fair to her, or to Clintons over the years. But having said that, you have to weigh the negatives and the positives. And when you think of the constituents she has out there that Obama did not get and you bring that together, you not only find the Democratic Party, but I think you find the center of the United

States of America. There are so many people that are just disappointed and despondent that I think bringing this together goes a long, long way in bringing America together.

SCHIEFFER: Let me ask you this question, Mr. Chairman, and there's no way to ask it but just ask it. Do you think there are people out there who are not going to vote for Barack Obama because he's an African-American?

Rep. RANGEL: I do, because that's America and there are people that feel so insecure. But the amazing things, and he just has surprised me as he's been able to capture the hearts and the votes of so many people who are not African-Americans, is the fact that I really think that the condition we find ourselves in, that the American people will put race aside and say, 'Let's get out of this problem that Bush has put us in.' And whatever differences we have with people because of color and religion is secondary if we all don't have a country to enjoy. And the war, the increase in unemployment, the oil, the lack of education, the health system; our country has not been in such a negative position since I can remember. And so it just seems to me that Obama has had the imagination to really capture the hearts and minds of people in a way that I've never seen done. So I think we got to overcome--the same way Hillary overcame the sexism, that we'll overcome the racism and it'll make us a stronger country.

SCHIEFFER: What do you think, in the end, this campaign will come down to in November? People say that he does not have the experience. John McCain says he is basically naive. Do you think it's going to be the war, is it going to be the economy, is it going to be John McCain's age, is it going to be his inexperience? In the end, what do you think it will come down to?

Rep. RANGEL: That America was just fed up with what they've had. John McCain's a nice man, but we've can't have a period of time when we have all-time unemployment that we have a guy saying he doesn't know much about the economy. You can't find the fellow that supports the tax cuts now that the president's put in at a permanent rate for the wealthy when he was against it before. We can't find someone going to the Middle East that don't know the Sunnis from the Shiites. I think he's a nice guy, but I think that America wants to move forward and we just can't do it with an extension of George Bush's policies.

SCHIEFFER: And what about Bill Clinton? If she should go on the ticket, what would--and if Barack Obama were elected--what would be like to have a former president running around the White House, like Bill Clinton? We know that he's not one to take a backseat here. He'd be involved in everything, wouldn't he?

Rep. RANGEL: I would hope so. He's involved in everything now. He's well-loved and respected around the world. And there's certainly parts of the United States that people still miss, love and hope that we can see his presence. It's easy to knock Bill Clinton, but he has a following that could be well served. And as long as he doesn't step in the way of the new president, President Obama, I really think that this guy's a genius and has a heck of a lot to offer.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for coming by this morning.

We'll be back in just one minute to talk with Jim Webb, the senator from what's shaping up as a battleground state, Virginia.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: With us now, Virginia Senator Jim Webb. He's the author of a new book. He's already--people are talking about him, *The Great Mentioner* mentions you as one of those being considered for vice president. And there's no question about it, your state is shaping up as a battleground state this time around.

Let's just start with this whole vice president question. If you were asked, would you accept?

Senator JAMES WEBB (Democrat, Virginia): I would leave that to Barack Obama and have--having a discussion with him. I'm happy to give him as much advice as I can, and support. I'm not really looking to be in that spot. I--you know, from the conversations you just had, he's got to do two things here. One is he's going to have to find someone that he feels compatible with who also can help him in the election, but every bit as importantly, he's going to have to put together an executive branch of government. And having spent four years in the--in the Reagan administration inside the executive branch, that's a very challenging thing to do. And he's going to need someone who he's very comfortable with in terms of that side of it, too.

SCHIEFFER: Well, I mean, you would accept if he asked you? I mean, you'd at least think about it, would you not? Or would you go that far?

Sen. WEBB: I--you know, I--this is not something that's come up. I--my prototype, I've said many times, in terms of elected office is Daniel Patrick Moynahan, who'd been able to combine an intellectual career with a government career. He actually served in a Republican administration at one point, put out a book a year, which I'm not going to be able to match. But, you know, he wrote, he thought, he had--he was able to bring scope to the legislative process. I'm very comfortable doing that.

SCHIEFFER: Well, you're not saying here you'd also consider being on the ticket with John McCain, are you, if he asked you?

Sen. WEBB: Well, I can--I can give you a definite no on that, all right, as to whether he would ask me and as to whether I would accept.

SCHIEFFER: Let's talk about the problems of Barack Obama, whoever he puts on this ticket. Let me just go back for one thing that you brought up there, you said he's got to put together an executive branch. Do you think it'd be wise, say, before the convention and at least before the election to not only let people know who his vice president running mate is going to be, but also maybe some key members of the Cabinet?

Sen. WEBB: I think those are personal leadership decisions that he would have to decide himself on. I'm not--wouldn't be appropriate for me to give him any sort of public advice.

SCHIEFFER: Yeah. All right. Well, let's talk. What do you think the main problem he's going to have? And you write in your book--which is fascinating, I would say--you argue that some of these lower income, white, blue-collar workers--they're your descendents...

Sen. WEBB: Culturally.

SCHIEFFER: ...the Scotch-Irish and so forth--actually have a lot in common with a lot of African-Americans, and that you see kind of a coalition there. But it looks to me as if he's going to really have to figure out some way to get through to that particular group of voters.

Sen. WEBB: And I think--and I think he can. I mean, I have written for a number of years about the notion that the American South was never white against black, it was always a veneer of white manipulating white against black, who were pretty socioeconomically similarly situated in terms of ability to get education and the economic situation in the--in the South, etc. So on the one hand, I wouldn't be that worried about the fact that a large percentage of this vote went to Hillary. We need to give Hillary some credit here. You know, she comes from a very strong organization and she has a great record with working people. I think the potential is that Barack, with the message that he has and where the country is right now, up to 80 percent of people in this country believe we need to move into a different direction. With that message, I think not only is Barack going to be able to reach out and get a significant percentage of that vote, but he's going to be able to reach back into the Reagan Democrats, of which I was a part, and bring in people who had voted for George W. Bush in the past. I think he's got a great opportunity here in this transitional election to put together a new coalition.

SCHIEFFER: Can he get Hispanic voters? We saw time and again in this race--I think he did do fairly well with Hispanics in your state, but in a lot of those big states he just couldn't seem to get across that divide. How does he go after that vote?

Sen. WEBB: Well, I think we've reached the point here where the message is going to transcend racial divides. There are clear distinctions between Barack and John McCain on issues of intellect, meaning the way you shape the larger issues that are facing the country rather than, you know, this tax bill or that tax bill. There are issues in terms of composure and vision. And so this simply--I mean, in my view, the way that I'm going to approach this as I help him is that I don't see the first African-American candidate, I see someone here who's got the intellect, who's got the composure, who can help us bring a formula now together where we can start breaking apart this calcification that has happened, where the middle class has been hurt so bad.

SCHIEFFER: Are you saying he's just got--that John McCain has a temper? Or--you used the word composure twice there.

Sen. WEBB: Well, no. I think--I think--when I look at what Barack has been through over the last 16 months and some of the shots that he's taken and some of the shots that he inevitably is going to take, you see someone who has had a remarkable ability to maintain his composure and still put his arguments out, and that should be reassuring to people who--as they've gotten to know him.

SCHIEFFER: What do you think about McCain's proposal to have 10 debates or 10 town hall meetings between now and the election? It's something we haven't seen in a long, long time in this--well, we've never seen it in this country. Would that be a good thing for Obama to do?

Sen. WEBB: It's certainly the best thing that John McCain can put on the table. John McCain is a friend of mine, I've known him for 30 years. I just happen to disagree with him on most of the

major issues here. He's very good on his feet. He is not a great orator. So the idea from their perspective would be to try to level the rhetorical playing field by getting Barack in that situation. But I think Barack will do good in that, too, if he decides to.

SCHIEFFER: So do you think he should?

Sen. WEBB: Depending on what else they're doing, I think--I think he'd be fine in that environment.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, I want to thank you, Senator, very much, for coming by this morning. And I think we've cleared up, you're not going to be on the ticket with John McCain, no matter what. Thank you.

We'll be back in a minute with our campaign Quick Check.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And with us now for a campaign Quick Check, our friend Roger Simon, the chief political columnist for Politico.

You heard Jim Webb this morning, he says he's not going to be on the ticket with John McCain if asked. But said...

Mr. ROGER SIMON (Chief Political Columnist, Politico): That's an easy one.

SCHIEFFER: He sounded like he's still open to the possibility. What do you think, in the end, is going to happen on this? Do you think Hillary Clinton moved up on the short list with the speech she made yesterday?

Mr. SIMON: I thought it was a really good speech.

SCHIEFFER: So did I.

Mr. SIMON: It was four days late, but it was good. And I think the lateness of it will be forgiven, if not entirely forgotten. But I don't hear any wild enthusiasm from the Obama camp for Hillary Clinton as a vice president. Does she bring some votes? Yes. But when they look at a figure like Jim Webb, the ability to take--to carry Virginia could be absolutely critical to the Obama campaign, could be one of those states they are really counting on. And there's a trade-off of getting Hillary supporters who might vote for Barack Obama anyway vs. a candidate who can bring you an actual state.

SCHIEFFER: Now that this fight in the Democratic Party is over, I think we will see more attention shift to John McCain and what he's been up to while all this has been going on. Where do you think the McCain campaign is right now?

Mr. SIMON: I think the McCain campaign has to do two things. He has to show, first and foremost, that he's not going to be George the third, he's not going to be the third term of George W. Bush. Everyone is agreed on that. But at the same time, he has to build a little enthusiasm.

The contentious campaign has been on the Democratic side, but that has energized Democrats. They've registered more people, they brought more people to the polls, they've raised more money. John McCain has to capture some of that spark and enthusiasm on the Republican side. He's got to build some energy, he's got to start doing it now, culminating at the Republican convention at the beginning of September and then going on to Election Day. He's got to show that he's going to be a tough, vigorous campaigner. He's got an unpopular war, he's got a bad economy, but he's also got two selling points. He says he's going to be much more effective in protecting America from terrorism, and he promises lower taxes and says Barack Obama is going to raise taxes.

SCHIEFFER: I think he's made a very deft proposal in proposing these 10 one-on-one debates between now and Election Day, and this is not all for the most noble of reasons.

Mr. SIMON: Yeah.

SCHIEFFER: Number one, he knows that Barack Obama's a better speaker than he is a debater. Number two, he knows this would be a lot cheaper way to go and he's running way behind in raising money. Do you think Obama will accept?

Mr. SIMON: I think Obama will accept, because this may be, in terms of John McCain, a be careful what you wish for. There's a good--there's an upside and a downside to this. The upside is exactly what you said, more publicity for John McCain, he's much better at town meetings than he is at set speeches. On the other hand, the Obama campaign is convinced that every time their young, vigorous, 46-year-old, tall candidate stays on a--stands on a stage next to John McCain, that helps Barack Obama more than it helps John McCain.

SCHIEFFER: OK. Roger Simon, thanks for the insight. Back with our final word in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, Hillary Clinton made the speech of her life yesterday. She showed a grace all too rare in modern politics and she set the right example for the young people who've worked so hard for her. The Clintons have not had much practice at losing, and until yesterday that showed in a not altogether flattering way. But yesterday it all changed. She offered no excuses; instead, she said the race was over, the time had come to unite behind her opponent, for whom she said she would work her heart out. She told her followers that she had not run to be the first woman president but had been a woman running for president, and that the next time a woman runs it will no longer be so remarkable. As the father of two daughters and three granddaughters, I believe she is right about that. She lost this race, but she has advanced the cause of women everywhere. In life we lose more than we win. Sometimes it is losing, not winning, that brings out our best. Yesterday, Hillary Clinton showed us her best.

And in closing, we note also the passing of the great sportscaster Jim McKay, who died at his Maryland farm at the age of 86. As host of the ABC World of--Wide World of Sports, he made the phrase "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" familiar around the world and became a powerful influence on sports and sports coverage, the first sportscaster to win an Emmy. When the terrorists broke into the '72 Olympics and killed 11 Israeli athletes, McKay's boss Roone

Arledge left him on the air to anchor the coverage rather than hand off to someone from the news department because, Arledge said, there is just a steadiness there. He was a model for all of us, including his son Sean McManus, who went on to become president of CBS News and Sports. Our thoughts are with his family.

That's it for us. See you next week right here on FACE THE NATION.

