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CBS News

FACE THE NATION

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GUESTS: Governor BILL RICHARDSON (D-NM)

**Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD (D-CT)
Obama Surrogate**

**Senator EVAN BAYH (D-IN)
Clinton Surrogate**

MODERATOR/PANELIST: Mr. Bob Schieffer – CBS News

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BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, it's down to Texas and Ohio now. It'll be a showdown this Tuesday with contests there which could decide which Democrat will run against Senator John McCain, and the campaign rhetoric is red hot. Senator Hillary Clinton argues she's the one who's ready to be president. But is that fair to Senator Barack Obama? We'll talk to two senators on opposite sides: for Senator Obama, Chris Dodd, senator from Connecticut; for Senator Clinton, Evan Bayh, senator from Indiana.

Then we'll talk to Governor Bill Richardson, who ran against both candidates, but who has not yet endorsed either. Will he make an endorsement? We'll find out.

Then I'll have a final word on the passing of a conservative and a gentleman.

But first, Texas and Ohio 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.

I say this, and I say it from experience, there is no worse feeling for reporters covering a political campaign than to realize you don't know where your candidate is, which is why there was near panic and a lot of e-mails flying back and forth yesterday when reporters covering Hillary Clinton suddenly realized she had disappeared. Well, not to worry, she had flown to New York to be on "Saturday Night Live," where she did something she doesn't often do, and that is make fun of herself. Here's part of what happened when she bumped into Amy Poehler, who portrays her on the program.

(Begin excerpt from "Saturday Night Live")

Ms. AMY POEHLER: (As Hillary Clinton) We have a--you--thank you for coming. I love your outfit.

Senator HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I love your outfit.

Ms. POEHLER: (As Hillary Clinton) Why, thank you.

Sen. CLINTON: But I do want the earrings back.

Ms. POEHLER: (As Hillary Clinton) Oh, OK. (Laughs)

Sen. CLINTON: Do I really laugh like that?

Ms. POEHLER: (As Hillary Clinton) Oh, well...

Sen. CLINTON: Yeah, well, all right.

Ms. POEHLER: (As Hillary Clinton) So how's the campaign going?

(End of excerpt)

SCHIEFFER: And it went on like that.

Senator Bayh, she--the pressure's on, but she did appear pretty relaxed last night.

Senator EVAN BAYH (Democratic, Indiana; Clinton Surrogate): You know, Bob, she's got a great sense of humor. And it's nice to see that, as serious she is and as substantive as she is, she can make fun of herself and enjoy a light moment.

SCHIEFFER: Well, we want to turn to some serious stuff now. The crux--the crux of her campaign, of course, is coming down to she is claiming Senator Obama is just not ready to be president. And here's the ad that the Clinton campaign is running. Let's take a look at it.

(Begin excerpt from Clinton advertisement)

Unidentified Man #1: It's 3 AM and your children are safe and asleep. But there's a phone in the White House, and it's ringing. Something's happening in the world. Your vote will decide who answers that call, whether it's someone who already knows the world's leaders, knows the military, someone tested and ready to lead in a dangerous world. It's 3 AM, and your children are safe and asleep. Who do you want answering the phone?

Sen. CLINTON: I'm Hillary Clinton, and I approve this message.

(End of excerpt)

SCHIEFFER: Well, a lot of people in Obama's campaign are saying that's nothing but fearmongering. Do you think that's really fair, Senator Bayh? You know both of these candidates.

Sen. BAYH: You know, Bob, I really don't. Look, we're hiring a president to do the hardest job in America.

SCHIEFFER: You really don't think it's fair?

Sen. BAYH: No, I don't think it's fearmongering.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Sen. BAYH: I thought you said fear--no, I don't think it's fearmongering, and I do think it's fair. We're hiring someone to do the toughest job in the country. And a big part of that job is being commander in chief.

I'll give you an example. I'm in the Intelligence Committee in the Senate, and we had a hearing two, three days ago. And they told us very directly, Bob, it's not a question of if we're going to be attacked again by al-Qaeda, it's a question of when. It is a dangerous world. And we need to have a debate about who is best prepared at this important moment to be commander in chief. I serve on the Armed Services Committee with Senator Clinton. I know about her deep knowledge and experience with the military. I've been with her with the presidents of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. I know the deep respect with which they hold her. There is no doubt in my mind that she is prepared to be commander in chief at this difficult moment for our country.

SCHIEFFER: Well, I'm going to interrupt this for some news here. Who told you that the United States is going to be attacked again by al-Qaeda?

Sen. BAYH: Well, our intelligence people have said that publicly, Bob, on several occasions. Unfortunately, it's a fact. In that Afghanistan area, that Pakistan border area, they're reconstituting their abilities there, they're training operatives and they're starting to send them back out into the world. So it's a dangerous world and unfortunate--fortunately for us, the attacks recently have been in Western Europe and other places, but it is a--the important point is, it's a risky world. We need someone with the seasoning, the experience, the strength to handle that job of commander in chief.

SCHIEFFER: So...

Sen. BAYH: And she's ready on day one.

SCHIEFFER: So you're saying this morning that US intelligence believes this country is going to be attacked? This country, in this country. Is that what you just said, senator?

Sen. BAYH: Our intelligence people, Bob, have made public statements that it's only a question of when, not if. We've been fortunate these last five, six years that we haven't suffered another attack here. As you know, they have in Madrid, London, Bali, places like that. So there is a very real threat. And the threat is gathering because of al-Qaeda reconstituting themselves.

SCHIEFFER: Well, did they say--did they have any idea when this is going to happen?

Sen. BAYH: No, and as you know, I can't talk about the specifics of confidential briefings, but they have made public statements along exactly the lines that I've just mentioned. And I think the public understands this. It's common knowledge, unfortunately. It's a dangerous world, and a big part of the job of the next president is going to be dealing with that. And the question is, who has the life's experience, the seasoning and the ability to handle that very important function of commander in chief? She does from day one.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let's see what Senator Dodd thinks about that. He's down in Texas campaigning for Senator Obama.

Senator, your response on all of the above, I should say.

Senator CHRIS DODD (Democrat, Connecticut; Obama Surrogate): Well, first of all, we hope that doesn't happen, obviously, taking every step we ought to be taking to see to it that we avoid being attacked in our country. And I think judgment is also important, character, integrity, life experiences. Experience in and of itself can't be judged in isolation. This always has to co-exist, in my view, with other qualities that we want to consider: the temperament of an individual, leadership ability.

I serve on two committees with Barack Obama. I spent a year and a half campaigning with Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, of course, for the presidency itself, so I had a chance to see Barack Obama up close, watch him carefully. I think it's instructive that Dick Lugar, the chairman--former chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reached down to the most junior member of that committee, Barack Obama, to travel with him to Russia to talk about nuclear proliferation issues. I've watched him carefully, Bob, over the last four years. This is a person eminently qualified here.

And the issue is--probably comes down to the judgment question here. Many of us here voted to support that authorization in 2002 that brought us to war with Iraq. Had we focused our attention on Afghanistan, the epicenter of al-Qaeda, then the very threat that Evan Bayh, my friend, has talked about here would be far less today had we been focusing our attention on where it ought to have been focused. That was a critical judgment call. So it's not, as they say, just who picks up the phone, but what do you say at the other end of that phone when that problem arises.

And it is a dangerous world, but I believe that Barack Obama is bringing a unique set of qualities to his candidacy that go far beyond just how many years you've served in Congress or served as the--as the spouse in the White House, but rather this life experiences, background, where you come from, that I think enriches candidacy tremendously, and why you're seeing the fact that, out of 36 contests over the last number of weeks and months, he's won 25 of them, half the states of this country. I think Democrats, independents, for the first time in 25 years--I'm not just hearing about Reagan Democrats, I'm hearing about Obama Republicans.

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Sen. DODD: That's important.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let's hold it there because I want to play now the ad...

Sen. DODD: OK.

SCHIEFFER: ...that Senator Obama played in response.

Sen. DODD: All right.

SCHIEFFER: We ran Senator Clinton's ad. Let's run his ad. Here's what he said when that ad came out.

(Begin excerpt of Obama advertisement)

Unidentified Man #2: It's 3 AM and your children are safe and asleep, but there's a phone ringing in the White House. Something's happening in the world. When that call gets answered, shouldn't the president be the one--the only one--who had judgment and courage to oppose the Iraq war from the start; who understood the real threat to America was al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, not Iraq; who led the effort to secure loose nuclear weapons around the globe? In a dangerous world, it's judgment that matters.

Senator BARACK OBAMA: I'm Barack Obama, and I approve this message.

(End of excerpt)

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, Senator Bayh, I'll give you a chance to respond to that one.

Sen. BAYH: Well, Bob, first let me say, we're fortunate to have two very good candidates. I think you can tell that. With regard to the question of judgment, let me say this. It's not only a question of what you say, it's a--mostly a question of what you do. Senator Obama gave a speech five or six years ago in which he said that we should not go to war in Iraq. That is to his great credit. Subsequently, after that, he said that if he had been in the United States Senate, he does

not know how he would have voted and exercised that judgment. After coming to the Senate, his voting record and Senator Clinton's record about what to do in Iraq is identical. Their plans about how to move forward and begin the process of getting us out of Iraq are identical.

And Chris mentioned Afghanistan, which is deteriorating, unfortunately, and poses a great risk to us. Senator Obama chairs one of the subcommittees in the Foreign Relations Committee that has jurisdiction over NATO and their activities in Afghanistan, and as far as I know hasn't chaired a hearing or really focused in this or used his judgment or that place to really do anything about Afghanistan. So it's not just what you say, it's what you do. And that is informed by your experience.

And I think Senator Clinton has shown that she has the strength, the seasoning to be commander in chief, to exercise both the right judgment and do the right things in leading this country at this important time.

SCHIEFFER: Senator Dodd:

Sen. DODD: Well, again I--listen, there are two good candidates here, and I know them both well and I know Senator Clinton a long time here. And I'm hopeful that we don't end up doing what I'm fearful we're going to do, and that is, of course, becoming highly divisive in all of this. We've got a unique opportunity to elect a strong candidate here. I believe Barack Obama is demonstrating that ability here. It doesn't serve our interests well here to be demeaning the other candidate, in my view. And I'm worried about these ads in a sense creating that kind of environment.

This will be a tough campaign. John McCain is a very tough opponent. We spend the next number of weeks and months bickering with each other over this sort of fly-specking these issues. Joe Biden and I served on these committees. Running for president is not easy. You miss votes, you miss some committee hearings, we know that here. But that's not the reason we ought to be talking about distinctions, in my view. If experience were the sole criteria, I'd say to my good friend Evan that Joe Biden and I ought to be competing for the presidency today in terms of the years we've spent in Congress. But obviously people looking beyond experience in years and service.

And it is something special going on here and it is unique and an opportunity, I think, not only to deal with the domestic issues--which are huge, by the way, that need to be attended to--but also the ability here to rally national support so that we can take on terrorism and deal with issues like AIDS and global warming questions here. And Barack Obama, I think, brings that unique set of qualities that will not only help us here at home, but make a difference around the world for us as well. And that's why I'm supporting his candidacy.

SCHIEFFER: All right, well, gentlemen...

Sen. DODD: And I hope he'll prevail on Tuesday.

SCHIEFFER: Gentleman, I want to thank both of you for being with us this morning.

Sen. BAYH: Thank you, Bob.

SCHIEFFER: I think you're good advocates for your candidates.

We're going to come back here with Governor Bill Richardson. He hasn't come out for either candidate yet. We'll see if he wants to take this opportunity to do so in just minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And with us now from Santa Fe, New Mexico, the governor of that state, Governor Bill Richardson. Governor Richardson, of course, was a candidate for the Democratic nomination; stayed in the race for a good part of this campaign. Then he withdrew. He's here with us this morning.

So far senator--congress--governor, you have not come down for either candidate. Are you going to endorse anybody in this?

Governor BILL RICHARDSON (Democrat, New Mexico): Well, not right now. You know, Bob, I never felt that endorsements from one politician to another mean much. It's how a candidate connects with the voter. And I'm legitimately torn. I've had a long history of positive history with both Clintons. Senator Obama, you know, he inspired me as I was running against him. He's got some unique qualities.

But again, Bob, you know, the concern that I have is the bickering that took place between those two very fine senators is going on too long. And I think Tuesday is going to be an important day. And, by the way, I may still endorse before Tuesday or I may not. But I just think that D-Day is Tuesday. We have to have a positive campaign after Tuesday. Whoever has the most delegates after Tuesday, a clear lead, should be, in my judgment, the nominee. I think we got to be ready for a very strong John McCain. Republicans are united right now. They don't have a divisive primary. It looks like the tone of our campaign is heading much too negative, and I want to see us after Tuesday basically come together and see where we are and move on to the general election.

SCHIEFFER: All right. I want to get back to that when you're saying that you should--that the voters--or the party should make the decision after Tuesday with who has the most delegates. But I want to ask you, I understand that a lot of people who served with you in the Clinton administration are pretty upset with you that you haven't endorsed Hillary Clinton. I'm told that former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called you and sort of said you need to get onboard here. Is that true or not?

Gov. RICHARDSON: No, no. Secretary Albright and I have had a very good conversation. She called me right after the race. You know, there are a lot of calls coming, and there are some people in the Clinton administration, the old administration that think that I owe the Clintons because I was appointed to two great jobs. I do have a sense of loyalty to the Clintons, but, you know, I did run against Senator Clinton. I think there are broader issues. I paid them back with my loyalty to them. You know, this is about the future of the country, and I don't mind all the calls I get from a lot of Clinton people, but Senator Obama calls a lot, and I appreciate that. I'm not against those calls.

But again, I think, Bob, what a politician does, one politician endorsing another, I don't think it means a hill--a hill of beans. Voters care how you connect with them. How you feel about ending the war in Iraq--which, by the way, has been buried, and I think is the most fundamental issue affecting the country, how we end this war. How we provide universal health care. How we improve our schools and get rid of No Child Left Behind. How we deal with a--with a very increasingly dangerous world that was evident in your first segment, and yet we have a leaderless administration moving on into an arena that in the future is going to really test the new president.

SCHIEFFER: Let me get back to what you said about after Tuesday, and what Democrats should do Tuesday. There are a lot of people who are saying that if Senator Clinton does not win both Texas and Ohio that it is time for her to think about withdrawing. Is that basically what you're saying here?

Gov. RICHARDSON: No. Because I think it's very tight in Ohio, it's very tight in--it's very tight in Texas. You can't count Senator Clinton out. She's a fighter. But obviously Senator Obama has huge national momentum. I believe, though, that, after Tuesday, if there's a clear indication of a--of a solid lead and delegate count--by voters, not superdelegates. And, by the way, I think there are too many super delegates, 800 of them. They should reduce that number for the next election. It should be voters that decide based on primary results in various states.

But I think after Tuesday, we as a party nationally--voters, leaders--have got to see whether it makes sense to continue a very divisive primary between now and Pennsylvania, and then the convention. The Republicans are already united. This campaign is getting much too negative. The American people want us to be positive. They want us to talk about issues. And I'm just worried that the tone of this campaign has gotten excessively negative, and it may hurt us in November.

SCHIEFFER: Well, what happens if they do decide to go on, governor? What are you warning against here? Just negativity? I mean, all campaigns get pretty negative.

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, yeah. But look. Look at those ads that are being played today, that you just played. Those ads could be campaign fodder for Republicans in the fall. I happen to disagree with that ad that says that Senator Obama is not ready. He is ready. He has great judgment, an internationalist background. But at the same time, I think his campaign has gotten a little negative, too, so I'm not playing favorites. What I want to see is us be united in November. And my concern, Bob, is that, as we head into Pennsylvania--there's a large gap between Tuesday and Pennsylvania--that this just continue, this negativity, personal attacks. Qualifications on, you know, who controls you, who--whether you're ready or not. Those are not helpful ads.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, let's take a break here, and we'll talk about some other things going on in the campaign when we come back. Back in 60 seconds.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Back again with Governor Bill Richardson in New Mexico.

Governor, what about John McCain? Is he going to be hard to beat?

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, I believe we will win the election, the Democrats, but McCain cannot be taken for granted. He's going to be a strong candidate. He's going to be able to cut into traditional Democratic constituencies with--like Hispanics, because he's an Arizonan, he has a moderate stand on immigration. On global warming, he has been a strong environmentalist. When it comes to Native Americans, he's been very active, in fact, with me in helping Native Americans. So I think anybody that takes him for granted--I mean, obviously, saying that we're going to be in Iraq for 100 years, moving very much to the right in the Republican primaries on a number of issues where America is at the center is going to hurt him. But this is why I'm very anxious for us to get a nominee, move forward, get positive, get ready for the general election.

And John McCain is not somebody that can be underestimated because he is an independent who is going to cut into traditional Democratic constituencies.

SCHIEFFER: Why do Hispanics--you just mentioned the Hispanic vote--why are Hispanics having a problem in a lot of places with Barack Obama?

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, they really are not. I think if you look at Senator Clinton, she and President Clinton have had a long, positive history appointing Hispanics. For instance, I was appointed with Federico Pena, Henry Cisneros in the Clinton administration. And so it's that they don't know Senator Obama. They like Senator Clinton. But I think if you look at recent polls in Texas and other Hispanic areas, Senator Obama has made inroads with younger Hispanics. I think Senator Clinton will win a majority of the Hispanic vote in Texas, but not necessarily by much because of this huge outpouring of young people coming out in favor of Obama.

You can't categorize Hispanic voters. And the Democrats can't take Hispanic voters for granted in the general election. And you just can't, you know, turn out the mariachis, you've got to talk about issues. And not just, quote, "traditionally" Hispanic issues like civil rights and immigration. You got to talk about jobs, about the war in Iraq. Mainstream issues. Health care, economic development, entrepreneurship. So anybody that typecasts Hispanics as being in one party or caring about singular issues is going to lose a lot of Hispanic votes that are up for grabs.

SCHIEFFER: We've got about a minute left here, governor. Quickly, who do you think would be the best running mates, say, if Senator Obama got the--got the nomination, or if Senator Clinton got the nomination.

Gov. RICHARDSON: You know, I think the two--the two guys you had up there were very good. You know, a running mate should not be picked on the basis of who can get most votes, because I think what you need in a running mate is somebody that is qualified to be president, that has experience, that is a good manager. Maybe I'm getting too much into answering your question, but...

SCHIEFFER: Someone like a governor, for example?

Gov. RICHARDSON: ...I think, Bob...

SCHIEFFER: Who's had...

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, you know, governors have been the ones that are elected presidents. We haven't elected a senator in over 40 years. I guess we're going to this time. But again, I just think that it should be--it should be based on who can be president, not who can get you the most votes.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Governor, it's a pleasure to have you this morning. Thank you very much for being with us.

I'll have a final word in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, the passing last week of William F. Buckley, the founder of the modern American conservative movement, brought many tributes. For the best, google David Brooks of The New York Times or George Will.

For me, it brought back a fond memory of the one time I met Buckley and what I learned from him that day. We were not much alike. He was New York's upper east side; I am Fort Worth's lower north side. By college he knew he was a conservative; I still can't figure out what I am as I've grown older--confused is one word that has been suggested.

But once, long ago, we were on a seminar panel assembled by broadcasting legend Fred Friendly. I was a young reporter and he was, well, William F. Buckley. He said something. I took immediate and sharp exception. Suddenly I realized I had picked a fight with one of America's keenest intellects, maybe the best debater in America. In a word, I was terrified. I was certain he would shred my argument to pieces, and me along with it. But he let me down gently. He made his point, but with that twinkle in the eye that was so much a part of him. He actually left the impression my point may have been worth making. He was interested in ideas, not in tearing down those who didn't see it his way on some particular point. He delighted in taking on people his own size, but he saw no need that day to embarrass some kid who was just starting out. I'm sure he never gave the moment another thought, but I never forgot it.

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