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

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

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GUESTS: Governor HOWARD DEAN
Chairman, Democratic National Committee

Senator BILL NELSON (D-FL)

Senator JOHN KERRY (D-MA)

Mr. ED ROLLINS
Republican Strategist

Mr. JOE TRIPPI
Democratic Strategist

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, will the Democratic nomination come down to what's done about the disputed primaries in Michigan and Florida? Democratic Party head Howard Dean says state officials from Michigan and Florida have to figure out if those primaries, whose delegates were disallowed because the states broke party rules, need to be held again. Will this dispute continue to the convention? And if there are do-overs, who pays? We'll ask chairman Dean.

Then we'll get the views of Florida Senator Bill Nelson, who's at the heart of this debate and has endorsed Senator Clinton. For Senator Obama, we'll talk to Massachusetts Senator John Kerry.

We'll get a campaign quick check from political strategists Joe Trippi and Ed Rollins.

Then I'll have a final word on creative name-calling. You think it's nasty now.

But first, what to do about Florida and Michigan 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: Good morning again.

And here's the deal: Florida and Michigan were stripped of their delegates because they violated national Democratic Party rules and moved their primaries to earlier dates on the election calendar. But with the race now so close, how those states go could determine who gets the Democratic nomination if their votes are counted. So what to do? Hillary Clinton was the only Democrat on the ballot in Michigan; nobody campaigned in Florida. She did win both states. But is it fair now to change the rules and count those results, or disregard them? Do you hold new primaries? And if so, who pays for them?

We're going to start this morning with the man in the middle, the national party chairman, Howard Dean.

Governor Dean, good morning. What are you going to do?

Former Governor HOWARD DEAN (Chairman, Democratic National Committee): Well, the first thing we're going to do is follow the rules. This is a close--very close race with two great candidates. They both can't win. It's very important for us to--we will beat John McCain if we're united. And in order to be united, the loser in the race has to feel that they've been treated fairly within the rules. That's how you keep the party united. So that's the number one thing. We will follow the rules.

Both parties--both Michigan and Florida have an opportunity to either have some sort of a process that was within the rules or simply appeal to the Credentials Committee. But we are going to follow the rules that were voted on by all 50 states a year and a half ago.

SCHIEFFER: Well, would you favor doing over these primaries?

Gov. DEAN: That's really up to the states. I've had very good discussions with Senator Nelson the last few days. Senator Levin called me the other day and they're working on a process. These senators are working hard. Everybody, including me and, I think, both candidates, wants to find a way to seat Florida and Michigan. But it has to be done in such a way that you don't change the rules in the middle of the game.

SCHIEFFER: Well, Senator Levin is talking this morning, Senator Nelson has been talking about some sort of a mail-in process. How would you do that?

Gov. DEAN: Well, that's actually a process that's been used elsewhere, and there's precedent for having a so-called do-over. DC had to do it, I think Delaware had to do it because other states have jumped ahead in the past, too, and then decided--thought better of it later on. But that's actually a very good process, and it's one that we discussed early on when we were negotiating with Florida, hoping to head this--all this stuff off. Every delegate gets a--gets a--gets a ballot in the mail. I mean, excuse me, every voter gets a ballot in the mail. It's comprehensive, you get to vote if you're in Iraq or in a nursing home. It's not a bad way to do this. Oregon does their general elections by a vote by mail.

SCHIEFFER: Well...

Gov. DEAN: So it's a good way, and it's a great party-building exercise because then you know who's active and who votes and so forth.

SCHIEFFER: Well, who would pay for that, governor? That seems to be the issue.

Gov. DEAN: Well, that is a problem. Senator Nelson and I've--and I have had some discussions which could lead to something fruitful, which is that the Florida party would be able to raise money. They can take unlimited amount of money in Florida. I don't know if that's possible in Michigan or not. And there's some discussion about that, too.

The two things I think that are established are the state isn't going to pay for it, because their governor, who's a McCain supporter, has said they won't pay for it. And the Democratic National Committee is not going to pay for it because right now our job is to tell the American people about Senator McCain's record on Iraq and the deficits and so forth, and convince the American people that our nominee is better than Senator McCain.

SCHIEFFER: Well...

Gov. DEAN: And that's what we're going to be using our resources for.

SCHIEFFER: I understand that, governor, but as the head of the party, you're just going to sit and wait until the states tell you what to do? What if they decide to do nothing? Does that mean their delegations won't be seated?

Gov. DEAN: Well, that's--not necessarily. There's two things they can do. One is to have this kind of an alternative process, which we're talking about now, and the other is simply to appeal to the Credentials Committee at the--at the convention, which is controlled, actually, by the delegates, not by me. And they can do a lot of things at the Credentials Committee. I think it's

very unlikely that Florida and Michigan, given how close this race is, are going to be seated as-is. But everybody's going to work very hard to find a compromise within the rules that's fair to both campaigns that will allow Florida and Michigan, in the end, to be seated.

SCHIEFFER: Well, are you willing to let this go to the conventions? I mean, do you think that's a good idea, to have some sort of knock-down, drag-out fight at the conventions?

Gov. DEAN: We don't think knock-down...

SCHIEFFER: Or would you like to get it done beforehand?

Gov. DEAN: We don't need a knock-down--we don't think knock-down, drag-out fights are ever good between Democrats. But it see--does seem to happen from time to time. But, no, we'd much prefer to have a--have this all settled before--well before we get to the convention, if that can happen.

SCHIEFFER: Well, if--do you think there's a chance that you would say, 'split the delegations in half,' give each side half of the delegations? If you did that, of course, then Senator Obama would still be ahead in delegates, as he is now.

Gov. DEAN: Well, Senator Nelson has made a proposal that something like that, too--and again, these have not been fleshed out. When these states come before us with a proposal, we're going to go to both campaigns and work with them. They're going to have to accept these because we need all of their followers. We can't have half the Democratic Party walk out thinking there was some deal cooked, and that's why their person didn't win. So we're going to go to both campaigns and try to get them to agree to whatever Florida and Michigan propose, as long as it's within the rules of the Democratic National Committee. But first, we've got to have a proposal in there, and both these senators are working very hard on this with task forces and talking to the governors and so forth and so on.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, governor, thank you very much. It sounds to me like, at this point, you simply don't know what's they--what's going to happen here, and it's going to be...

Gov. DEAN: No, but...

SCHIEFFER: ...at least awhile before you--we have this figured out.

Gov. DEAN: It'll be awhile. Certainly doubt very much that there'll be any kind of a thing, resolution before Pennsylvania. But again, things are moving, and they haven't been for a while, and now they are, and that's always a good sign.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, thank you very much, governor. We'll be back in just a minute to talk to Senator Nelson from Florida and also to Senator John Kerry, who's working for Barack Obama.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Well, one thing is for sure: This Democratic race is still very close. Yesterday, of course, Barack Obama won another caucus, the one up in Wyoming. He now leads Hillary Clinton in the delegate count, by our calculation, somehow or about 113 delegates, I think it is. Well, here to talk about what to do about Florida and Michigan, two people who have a real interest in it: Bill Nelson, senator from Florida, who is working for Senator Clinton, by the way; and John Kerry, senator from Massachusetts, who is campaigning this year for Barack Obama.

Well, Senator Nelson, hearing Howard Dean reminded me of the joke about the football coach who kept yelling out, 'Give the ball to Leroy,' and he kept--they wouldn't give it to Leroy, and finally the quarterback hollered over, 'Leroy doesn't want the ball.' It sounds like Howard Dean doesn't want the ball here. He's telling you folks to work it out. What's going to happen here?

Senator BILL NELSON (Democrat, Florida): Bob, I've been trying for eight months--I started on this last July and August--trying to avoid this train wreck. And the Democratic National Committee, the chairman, they were just hard over: 'You're going to do it our way or not,' even though the state legislature, a year ago last spring, a Republican legislature with a Republican governor, changed the date. The Democratic leader in the state Senate even offered an amendment to try to put it back to February the 5th. It was defeated, the amendment, and the bill went on to pass. It was an election reform bill, so don't give me this stuff about every Democrat voted for the bill. It was about election machines and paper trails and all of that.

SCHIEFFER: But what do you do now?

Sen. NELSON: Well, I felt so strongly about the right of people's vote to count as they intended their vote that I even sued Howard Dean.

SCHIEFFER: Uh-huh.

Sen. NELSON: And I sued the DNC. The federal judge didn't see it our way, so if we're not going to have the DNC seat the delegation as the will of the Florida people have expressed it, then the only thing I know to do is to do it over. And you can't put up the election machinery full bore, so you've got to go to a different device, and I would suggest mail in--mail a ballot to every registered Democrat in the state of Florida. You mail it ahead of time so it can get overseas to the men and women overseas, and then the apparatus of the state government counts the votes. They confirm the signatures, just like an absentee ballot.

SCHIEFFER: Sure.

Sen. NELSON: On the envelope. So you've got to have the cooperation. So it's going to be up to Governor Crist and the legislature. They're going to have to tweak...

SCHIEFFER: Well, who's going to pay for it, senator?

Sen. NELSON: Well, that would have to be, since Governor Dean has said that he's not going to do it in the DNC, then the Florida Democratic Party is going to have to go out and raise the money. And we're looking at about \$6 million.

SCHIEFFER: Six million dollars.

Well, Senator Kerry, you are supporting Barack Obama here.

Senator JOHN KERRY (Democrat, Massachusetts): Yes, I am.

SCHIEFFER: What do you think ought to happen?

Sen. KERRY: I think the rules ought to be followed. I think that obviously Barack Obama believes very strongly that delegates from those states ought to be represented at the convention. And Barack Obama believes in inclusivity, but he also believes in playing by the rules, not changing them after the fact. He played by the rules in Michigan. He even went to the lengths of taking his name off the ballot, as did every other candidate except for Hillary Clinton. And now...

SCHIEFFER: And he--and none of the other candidates campaigned in Florida.

Sen. KERRY: Correct. And they didn't campaign. But--well, there was a campaign under the radar screen in Florida and everybody knows that. A lot of money was spent in Florida, and Senator Clinton went there the night of the primary and claimed a victory.

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Sen. KERRY: So, in a sense here, what you see is sort of two different attitudes about how American politics ought to be played. Barack Obama will play by the rules and he will do whatever the party and the states decide to do. And so...

SCHIEFFER: So if they decide to do what Senator Nelson's talking about, he'll do that.

Sen. KERRY: He will play by the rules. He will play by the rules, but let me emphasize that Senator Clinton is trying to change the rules in Michigan. She's saying, 'I won't accept a caucus,' which is, frankly, up to the state, also the party, and they had a caucus there. That's exactly what was there. So she's busy gaming it, frankly, in the same way that, unfortunately, I think she's gaming this commander as chief issue.

I mean, this week they were busy in the Clinton campaign floating the idea or maybe having Barack Obama be vice president in the camp--you know, in the ticket. Well, the first threshold question about a vice president is, 'Are you prepared to be president? Do you pass the threshold?' So on the one hand, they're saying he's not prepared to be president. On the other hand they're saying maybe he ought to be vice president. You can't have the argument both ways. That's exactly the politics that Barack Obama is running to change.

So he'll accept whatever the party and the states decide. Let's go forward, let's get this done in a way that allows Michigan and Florida to be at the convention, brings the party together, unites it, which is what his candidacy is about, and resolve this issue fairly.

Sen. NELSON: Bob, I did not come here to talk about Clinton vs. Obama. I came here to talk about the right of people's vote in Florida to count and to count as they intended it.

Sen. KERRY: Which we agree on.

Sen. NELSON: And that's the principle that I'm going to stand on, and that's the principle that, well before I endorsed Hillary, which was six month--six weeks ago, last summer, eight months ago, I was trying to avoid this train wreck. Now, John is trying to make this into Hillary vs. Barack. They're both good friends of mine. I have endorsed Hillary because I think she would be the better president, but the fact is that both Barack and Hillary have much invested to get this thing right, because if Michigan and Florida are not seated, it is going to be monumentally consequential.

As a matter of fact, polls are showing 22 percent of independent votes in Florida are saying, in fact, that they are less likely to vote for the Democratic nominee as a result of the way the DNC is treating Florida.

SCHIEFFER: Well, do either of you...

Sen. KERRY: Let me...

SCHIEFFER: Well, let me just ask you this question.

Sen. KERRY: Yeah.

SCHIEFFER: Do either of you think that either candidate will benefit if this winds up at the convention and has to be resolved there?

Sen. KERRY: Oh, of course not, Absolutely not. Let me just say, Bill is my good friend, and we campaign together a lot, and he's been a great champion of trying to work this out early, and he's been correct in fighting for Florida and in fighting for this to be done in a sensible way, and I applaud him for that. But we are in a campaign. We are trying to choose a nominee, and these approaches are relevant to this question of what--why people want change in America.

You know, I think people are just tired--you know, frankly, they look at this fight, and they say, what's going on? Where are the--where's the adult leadership? You know, what's happening? And you've got a candidate, Barack Obama, who is saying, 'I'll do whatever the party and the states want to do.' I think that's pretty magnanimous. I think that's called big thinking, if you will, openness.

Sen. NELSON: Will he support a do-over?

Sen. KERRY: He's not trying--he's not trying to squeak it. Whatever the states means whatever the states and the party decides. If there's a united--but again, rules are rules.

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Sen. KERRY: I mean, how can you run for president and suggest that the rules always ought to be changed in midstream, and give confidence to Americans that that's--that you're going to play by the rules when you're president.

SCHIEFFER: Let me just ask you this, and we have about just a few seconds left here, are you satisfied with Howard Dean as the chairman of the national committee?

Sen. NELSON: Well, he is the chairman, and the chairman ought to be getting the two campaigns together on a buy-in of how we're going to resolve this, and I have thrown out one suggestion, which is a do-over with a mail-in ballot. So I would appreciate it very much if the chairman would get the DNC to sign up to this so we can move on.

SCHIEFFER: And that would be satisfactory to Senator Obama.

Sen. KERRY: Again, he'll do what they decide. Speaking for myself, I don't think a mail-in is as-is as democratic, if you will, in the--in this context. Where I think they really ought to feel the presidential race, they ought to get a chance to get people down there, not just do a mail-in. They ought to have the combination, like Oregon.

SCHIEFFER: All right. We...

Sen. NELSON: They would--they would...

Sen. KERRY: In Oregon--in Oregon, they have a combination, where you do it.

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Sen. KERRY: But I'm confident this can be worked out, Bob. I think the party will work it out. I think Howard Dean is doing his best to hold the rules but also to be fair and inclusive.

SCHIEFFER: All right. We have to end it there. Thank you very much, gentlemen, for a very spirited discussion. I think we all learned something.

Sen. KERRY: Good to be with you.

SCHIEFFER: We'll be back in a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And joining us now with a campaign quick check, Republican strategist Ed Rollins, who's in our New York studio this morning; and Joe Trippi, a Democratic strategist and CBS News consultant.

We've been talking about what are they going to do about Michigan and Florida, but let's start off by talking about, how's this race going right now, Joe Trippi?

Mr. JOE TRIPPI (Democratic Strategist): Well, Obama has got some momentum back from yesterday, winning another caucus in Wyoming, which he's just been doing great in caucuses.

SCHIEFFER: Tiny state, a Republican state normally. Does that really make much difference?

Mr. TRIPPI: Well, it makes--he gained two more delegates, and as that point--at this point, that's what's really important.

SCHIEFFER: Mm-hmm.

Mr. TRIPPI: But as you go into Pennsylvania, and I think the key state may actually be North Carolina, because that's a state that Obama is expected to win, but, demographically, it could favor Clinton if she can get a little roll going. So I think what happens now in Pennsylvania and North Carolina may be consequential as we move forward.

SCHIEFFER: Ed Rollins, as a Republican, you're sitting back now and kind of watching, and you've got to be kind of happy with this--the little mess that the Democrats have gotten themselves into about what to do about Michigan and Florida. How do you see that affecting what's happening down the road for them and for John McCain?

Mr. ED ROLLINS (Republican Strategist): You know, I mean, two critical states in the end of the day. You know, Florida obviously's been important since 2000, and Michigan is a--is a--is a race that hopefully will be competitive again. And I think you have to be very careful when you alienate voters, particularly in your base.

You know, my sense is this has been sort of like--the Republican side was like a NASCAR race in which the front-runners kind of get knocked back and forth, and obviously John McCain survived. The Democrat race is kind of like a Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight; they're pounding each other round by round. And it's pretty fascinating to watch. At the end of the day, I expect the party to be unified again and John McCain to be a very strong candidate, and it'll be a very close election.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let me just ask you, as a Republican watching what's happening with the Democrats now--people say, 'Oh, my gosh, we can't go and have a big knock-down, drag-out fight at the convention.' Do parties recover when they have knock-down, drag-out fights at conventions over things like this?

Mr. ROLLINS: In 1976, Reagan obviously was the last time we had a battle, Reagan-Ford. Carter won that race in a very close race, but Ford came back out of that prime--out of that very contested convention and came very, very close to winning it. So I think you can come back. I mean, a lot of circumstances that went against him. But most of all, he made it a very, very competitive race. So I think the Democrats can get back together, and obviously that'll be their goal.

Mr. TRIPPI: Well, and in 1980 with Senator Kennedy went after President Jimmy Carter, we went into that convention, the Democratic side, with a fight on our hands. And Reagan won. So the two times in recent history where you had a big fight, the other team won. So we can't--Democrats cannot go into this convention fighting. I think we've got to have this settled. Whether we're going to have a re-do in Michigan and Florida has to be settled pretty quickly so we can figure that out. And I think--and then I think we can't--this thing's got to be settled one way or another before we go into the convention.

SCHIEFFER: Who do you think should be the...

Mr. ROLLINS: I just don't see how you can, though. I mean, I think--I think, in all honestly, I mean, you know, you count delegates as well as anybody, Joe.

Mr. TRIPPI: Yeah.

Mr. ROLLINS: It's just not going to happen. I think you're going to go to the convention unless one of them quits, and that's not going to happen. You know, they may make a--they may make a team, but nobody can decide who's on top. And at the end of the day, I think you're going to have that contested convention.

SCHIEFFER: Who would be the likely running mates on the Republican side? Who would be the best running mate John McCain could get, do you think, Ed?

Mr. ROLLINS: Well, obviously I have a bias towards Mike Huckabee, having been his chairman, but I don't think that's going to happen. I think--I think a Southerner's very important. Several governors that I think could add a great deal. The Southern states are our base. John McCain has not done as well there as he might have. And I think to a certain extent one of those governors could help him protect his backside.

SCHIEFFER: All right. And on the Democratic side, if Hillary Clinton gets it, does she have to put Barack Obama on the ticket?

Mr. TRIPPI: Right now, it's looking like these two may have to join up, whether they like it or not. I mean, a John F. Kennedy-Lyndon Baines Johnson kind of ticket, perhaps. But I mean, look, if this thing does go into the convention and there's a fight, I think--I don't know how else you join the party up.

SCHIEFFER: And if Obama gets it, should he put her on the ticket?

Mr. TRIPPI: I think he's got more options, I think. I think John Edwards--I worked on that campaign, I should disclose that--but I think John Edwards would--might be a good pick. Hillary would be a good pick. There are--there are a bunch of good picks for him. But I think if she somehow gets by him, I don't see how she goes forward without picking him.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, thanks to both of you.

Mr. ROLLINS: Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: I'll be back with a final word in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And finally today, as we say in politically correct modern America, it was inappropriate when Barack Obama staffer Samantha Power called Hillary Clinton a monster and Ms. Power had to resign. I have no problem with her taking leave; the remark was over the top.

But here's the other side. Creative name-calling is as much a part of American politics as waving Old Glory. Back in 1952, when Harry Truman called Republicans a bunch of "snollygosters," it set off such a shock wave that my late colleague Eric Sevareid thought it necessary to counsel calmness. After all, he said, Truman's remark wasn't nearly as bad as when President McKinley's opponents said he had the backbone of a chocolate éclair, or when candidate Winfield Scott was called the peacock of American politics, all fuss and feathers and fireworks.

For pure invective, I have always been partial to the late labor leader John L. Lewis' description of Roosevelt's Vice President Garner. He called him a labor baiting, poker playing, whiskey drinking evil old man. "Cactus" Jack Garner, of course, was the one who had described the office he held as not worth a bucket of warm spit. And that is the cleaned-up version of the quote. Oh, they had phrases back then.

You know, I'm glad we've moved campaigns to a higher level, but you know what? Sometimes I really miss the old days.

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

