

© 2008, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.

*PLEASE CREDIT ANY QUOTES OR EXCERPTS FROM THIS CBS
TELEVISION PROGRAM TO "CBS NEWS' FACE THE NATION."*

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

Sunday, March 30, 2008

GUESTS: Governor **BILL RICHARDSON (D-NM)**
Obama Supporter

Mayor **MICHAEL NUTTER (D-Philadelphia)**
Clinton Supporter

Mr. **JOE TRIPPI**
Political Strategist

Mr. **JOHN DICKERSON**
Slate Magazine

MODERATOR/PANELIST: Mr. Bob Schieffer – CBS News

*This is a rush transcript provided
for the information and convenience of
the press. Accuracy is not guaranteed.
In case of doubt, please check with*

FACE THE NATION - CBS NEWS
(202)-457-4481

BOB SCHIEFFER, host:

Today on FACE THE NATION, Senator Hillary Clinton says she's not about to quit. She says she'll compete in all the remaining primaries and will continue until the situation with the Florida and Michigan voters is resolved. And if it comes down to a nasty convention battle, so be it. Is this kind of fight good for the Democrats in the fall? We'll get both sides from Bill Richardson, the former Clinton cabinet member who now supports Senator Obama, and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, who's backing Senator Clinton. We'll talk about the rest of the week's political news with strategists Joe Trippi and John Dickerson, who covers politics for Slate magazine. Then, I'll have a final word on the disconnect on Iraq.

But first, Richardson and Nutter 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. Well, as you can see, the tulips are out in Washington and the politics is just getting hotter. Joining us from Big Sky, Montana, where Democrats are having a governor's convention this morning, Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico.

Good morning to you, Governor. Well, Hillary Clinton...

Governor BILL RICHARDSON (Democrat, New Mexico; Obama Supporter): Good morning, Bob.

SCHIEFFER: ...says that she is not leaving. She says she's in to the very bitter end, and if that goes down to a big fight at the convention, then she's staying until then. Do you think that's a good deal?

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, partially. I think the race should continue. She has every right to stay in the race. She's run a very good campaign. There's 10 primaries to go, they end June 3rd. But I think, Bob, after June 3rd it's important that Democrats come together and not be so divided as we have been. There's, as I said, 10 more important states: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Oregon, Kentucky, many others. But I think it's important that at the end of June 3rd date we look at who has the most delegates, who has the most popular vote, who has the most states. And I personally believe that Senator Obama is reaching a stage where his lead is insurmountable. But the race should continue. I don't agree with those that say that Senator Clinton needs to drop out. But eventually...

SCHIEFFER: Well, what...

Gov. RICHARDSON: ...we have to realize that we can't have this intensive personal bloodletting that's going on.

SCHIEFFER: Well, how would you propose to do that after June 3rd? I mean, Governor Phil Bredesen of Tennessee says maybe you could have some sort of a convention of the superdelegates to decide where everything goes from here. But, I mean, how would you go about doing that?

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, what I would do--I think that Bredesen has an interesting idea. However, what you don't want is for the big shots in the party, the superdelegates, to determine the nominee. It should be voters, it should be delegates chosen according to proportionality. But maybe what can happen is some of the major party leaders, like Governor Dean and Speaker Pelosi, Al Gore, John Edwards take Bredesen's idea and find ways that superdelegates can have discussions, can have some kind of consensus emerging so that we don't have a bloody convention where we're weakened. You know, John McCain right now is raising funds, he's campaigning, he's being an international statesman and we're fighting each other, we're getting personal. And we should be talking about how we're going to end this war and how we bring universal health care and how we repair this tattered economy. That's what we should be talking about. And the campaign has just gotten much too

negative.

SCHIEFFER: You endorsed Senator Obama and of course drew the now famous response from James Carville, the adviser to the Clintons, that you were basically Judas Iscariot. I mean, he said that flatly. And as often--or as almost never happens after somebody says something like that and then they start to kind of back off, he not only didn't back off, he wrote an op-ed piece in The Washington Post yesterday in which he said, 'Look, I'm not sorry I said it. And if it had been near the Fourth of July instead of Easter, I would have accused him of being a Benedict Arnold.' What's going on here? Why are the Clinton people taking it so hard that you decided to endorse Senator Obama?

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, I haven't gotten into the gutter on this and, you know, I'm not going to stoop to Carville's level. I barely know the guy in the first place. But I think loyalty to the nation, loyalty to the party is a lot more important than personal loyalty. I owe the Clintons a lot. I served in the president's Cabinet. But that loyalty's to President Clinton. That doesn't mean that I am going to, for the rest of my life, be in lockstep with whatever they do. I ran against Senator Clinton. I was a presidential candidate. And what--I ran against this personal venom that people like Carville and many others in the Clinton team, that feel a sense of entitlement that the presidency is theirs. And I felt that Obama, Senator Obama has something very special that brings people together--judgment, temperament, patriotism. And I felt I personally, as an American, had to rise above personal loyalty and the past to look at what's best for the country.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let me...

Gov. RICHARDSON: And that's the choice that I made.

SCHIEFFER: Let me just ask you this. Some people are saying that maybe the reason that they're so upset is that you had led the Clintons to believe you were going to endorse Hillary Clinton. Had to led them to believe that?

Gov. RICHARDSON: No, no. I was, as you know, for about three months, undecided. It was a very difficult decision. I was on the verge, a couple of times, of going with Senator Clinton. You know, after President Clinton visited me in New Mexico at the Super Bowl, he's pretty persuasive. But I didn't because the campaign, I felt, had gotten too rancorous. I was in intensive contact with Senator Obama. He would call me himself. The Clinton people would, like a war room, get hundreds of their supporters and colleagues of mine to call me and pressure me in a way that, in some cases, I felt was inappropriate. However, I made the decision on Senator Obama because I've gotten to know him. I think he has the international stature, I think he has the ability to bring people together. I've attended rallies, Bob, where I've never seen anything like it. People with hope and enthusiasm screaming. Obama brings something very good in our people that brings America together nationally and internationally. That's what's attracted to him.

SCHIEFFER: Do...

Gov. RICHARDSON: And I've only felt that I'm going to be more active in the campaign.

SCHIEFFER: Do you feel that Senator Obama, the one you have now endorsed, has done enough to distance himself from these remarks by his pastor? Because after this situation came up where Hillary Clinton was accused of inflating her resume, this incident involving the snipers and all that in Bosnia, she brought it up again. Does he need to do more on this front? Is this going to hurt him?

Gov. RICHARDSON: Well, one of the reasons I was attracted to Obama is because he faces issues directly. He could have given a very easy speech after that problem with Reverend Wright, and I felt he did distance himself. I was very upset by Reverend Wright's remarks. But what he did is he faced the issue directly with the American people on race, that we shouldn't

stereotype, that we should come together, that all of us have some kind of prejudice. In fact, his speech on race reinforced my decision that this is the right person that can not just bridge racial gaps and ethnic gaps, but also the enormous loss of prestige that we have internationally. Think of this man as a symbol of America, a human being who has great intellect, great capacity, somebody that can bring people together, that can unify us, that can rise above some of the problems that have come before his campaign and lead and be honest and candid.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Gov. RICHARDSON: That's what I think is very special about him, Bob.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, I think that's where we have to leave it. Thank you very much, Governor.

And in just a minute, we're going to come back with Philadelphia's Mayor Michael Nutter. He's for Hillary Clinton.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: With us now from Philadelphia, he is supporting Hillary Clinton, Mayor Michael Nutter.

Mayor, thank you for coming this morning.

Mayor MICHAEL NUTTER (Democrat, Philadelphia; Clinton Supporter): Oh, good morning, Bob. Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: And let me just start where Governor Richardson left off there. Do you believe that Barack Obama has put enough distance between himself and the remarks of his pastor, Pastor Wright?

Mayor NUTTER: Well, ultimately that's for the American public to decide about Senator Obama's judgment with regard to that relationship, the comments that were made. I've certainly listened to the speech that was made here in Philadelphia. Of course, it was a political speech on race to deal with Senator Obama's campaign. Whether these comments continue to stick to him is really left to the judgment of the voters, but they are very damaging comments and certainly most Americans reject that kind of hate-filled language.

SCHIEFFER: Well, if he had been your pastor, would you have been satisfied with that?

Mayor NUTTER: With those comments? Of course not. No. We would have certainly--if my pastor made comments like that, which he would not, we certainly would have a conversation. But I could not stay in a church where that kind of hate-filled rhetoric was a part of the sermonizing that goes on. It's unacceptable.

SCHIEFFER: Well, what should Senator Obama do now? Has he done enough or is there something else he should do here?

Mayor NUTTER: Well, as a supporter of Senator Clinton, I'm probably not in the best position to give Senator Obama political advice. But I think what's really important here is that the candidates talk about the issues that affect cities like Philadelphia and our region, the metropolitan areas all across America; issues related to crime and public safety, educating our children, creating jobs and economic opportunities. A week or so ago we had a portion of I-95, a major highway network, shut down as a result of lack of investment in our infrastructure. So these are the things that are going on in Philadelphia and many cities across the country that we really need the candidates to pay attention to. I'm trying to get a community conversation going on between the candidates individually and the public here in Philadelphia. Senator Clinton has responded to that call, but I'm still trying to get a response from Senator Obama. These are the real issues that

affect real people and their lives.

SCHIEFFER: Governor Cuomo, former governor of New York, wrote a piece this week, I think there's a copy of it in the Boston Globe this morning, where he says you've got two good candidates here, and he said they should decide that whoever gets the nomination, they should agree in advance that they will put the other person on the ticket. Does something like that sound like a good idea to you? Let's say the senator gets the--Senator Clinton gets the nomination. Would you be happy to see Obama on the ticket and vice-versa?

Mayor NUTTER: Well, first, I'm not going to presume to make a decision for Senator Clinton. Picking a vice president, you know, it's not like picking your best buddy in third grade. This is a very serious and important decision which I think is best left first and foremost to the candidates, the candidates' advisers. You take a full look at the vast array of potential candidates out there. But I think, you know, quite seriously, we're getting the cart before the horse. We still have a great election to take place here in Pennsylvania on April 22nd and many other states and territories across the country. And so let's try to stay focused on the election at hand. People are excited and enthused about this campaign in Philly and our suburbs and all across Pennsylvania because they want to have a voice and they want their votes to be counted and have an impact on this upcoming election. This is very serious and we're excited about the prospect of nominating Senator Clinton to then be president of the United States.

SCHIEFFER: What do you think the role of the superdelegates ought to be, Mr. Mayor? Should they just vote their conscience or should they--should their vote reflect what their constituents have been saying in these primaries and caucuses?

Mayor NUTTER: Well, you know, superdelegates didn't just drop out of the sky. There is a role and there is a process for superdelegates. Their main responsibility, as I best understand it, is to exercise discretion and judgment for who is the best nominee for the party and then who can best be president of the United States. And that is their role and they should exercise that kind of judgment.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let me ask you. You're an African-American, you have a large African-American population there in Philadelphia. I would guess that right now, although Senator Clinton is favored in Pennsylvania, that Senator Obama is probably going to get a whole lot of votes in Philadelphia. What if Senator...

Mayor NUTTER: Yeah. Senator Clinton's going to get a whole lot of votes in Philadelphia as well.

SCHIEFFER: What if Senator Obama comes into that convention, he's leading in the popular vote, he is leading in the most delegates, he's leading in every category--which a lot of people think that's going to be the situation--and then he gets there and you have these superdelegates overturn all of that and give the nomination to him? How will that sit in the black community and in black communities across this country? Won't that make it very difficult?

Mayor NUTTER: Bob, I think, again, we cannot allow this election to just evolve into a discussion about race. There are many, many citizens of every color under the rainbow who are concerned about this particular election. We're--you and I had a discussion earlier about baseball. We're in about the seventh inning and one team may be ahead, but you have to play this out to its conclusion. There are still many races to be had. Neither Senator Clinton or Senator Obama, based on what people say the math is, can get the required number of delegates, and so you have to pay it out to the end. Let's not rush this game.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Mayor NUTTER: In Pennsylvania and many other states, let's let the voters decide.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, Mr. Mayor, very nice to have you this morning. Thank you.

Mayor NUTTER: Oh, thank you.

SCHIEFFER: Back in a moment with our roundtable.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And with us now for our campaign Quick Check, political analyst Joe Trippi and Slate magazine's chief political correspondent John Dickerson.

Well, Joe Trippi, Governor Richardson said this morning he's putting country above party loyalty.

Mr. JOE TRIPPI (Political Strategist): It's a great argument. It--you know, 'I love my country and my party more than I love my loyalty to a past president and Hillary Clinton.' So, I mean, I think--and also, he hit on the whole thing about sort of the negative, nasty rancor that comes--that's coming out of the--of the Clinton campaign, to some extent, and exactly the opposite of what the Obama campaign is trying to do. So I think he's winning the argument at this point.

SCHIEFFER: But he says, you know, we ought to just settle all this after June 3rd. But the question is, yeah, that's a great idea, but how?

Mr. JOHN DICKERSON (Slate Magazine): Well, that's exactly right. It's interesting, he's changed his remarks a little bit. When he came out to support Obama he said, you know, Democrats should just get behind Obama because John McCain's getting an advantage. Now he's saying we should wait. This is in part because the Clinton campaign has made a lot of hay over these calls for her to get out. They've sent out two fundraising appeals saying, 'Hey, the Washington insiders'--imagine Hillary Clinton talking about Washington insiders. 'The Washington insiders want her out of the race but we're going to keep fighting for you, the people.'

Mr. TRIPPI: Well, that's right. And I think it's very smart of the Obama campaign to sort of back off this, because so far, every time we've seen a campaign say it's over, this needs to stop now, the other side's benefited from that. And it was the Clinton campaign that made these arguments early on in the--in the cycle, saying, 'This is over. We have all these endorsements, there isn't even really a need to have--to go further.' And you saw both Edwards and Obama benefit from that. And now you're seeing Obama back off, I think, because they don't want the Clinton campaign to benefit now from that argument.

SCHIEFFER: Do you take her at her word that she's in this to the bitter end no matter what happens between now and the convention?

Mr. TRIPPI: I think that's what they think today. But I really--I still believe that after May 6th, Indiana and North Carolina, that if she doesn't win there that there will be a big force--they're underestimating the force from the other superdelegates and others to get out of this race, and I think they'll have to heed that. I think they'll see the Clinton campaign fold after May 6th unless they win there.

Mr. DICKERSON: Well, that's right. If these superdelegates upon whom she's basing here entire argument start to come out and say, 'No, we're going with Obama,' then that takes it away from her. Of course, she has to look now like she's a fighter, because that's her campaign message to these folks. So she's talking to voters and saying, 'I'm a fighter,' so she has to say 'I'm in this and I'm going to fight it all the way to the end,' because that's what she's promising with her presidency.

Mr. TRIPPI: Absolutely.

SCHIEFFER: Do you--do you think--I mean, some people actually say that maybe she's not all that worried about cutting up Obama a lot. That, you know, there is 2012 down the road.

Mr. TRIPPI: Well, I think--I think if you're the Clinton campaign and believe Obama's not electable, and you're trying to make that case, there isn't--in the back of your mind there can't be that much of a detriment to proving it because if you're wrong you want--you know, McCain may beat him and you come back in 2012. So the problem is they need to--if they keep this up, there are going to be others in the party that start asking themselves, is that what this is all about? Is this really about tearing Obama down, not just for you now, but potentially to keep the door open for you in 2012? Once that happens, once people in the party start to think that, they're going to come and shut her down fast because they don't want that. The party won't want that to be the outcome of this.

SCHIEFFER: What about these delegates from Florida and Michigan? Is this thing going to be resolved or will it just stay like it is?

Mr. DICKERSON: It doesn't look like it's going to get resolved, and now the fight is over--it's now become another argument between the two campaigns. Hillary Clinton is basically saying, you know, 'We were--we were up for finding some solution and Barack Obama wasn't.' And she's trying to argue that if a solution were found--and remember, there was no real solution that looked like it was going to be found. If a solution was found, well, then Hillary would have gone on to win these two states and that would have give her a better shot at these delegates and everything. It's now mixed in to this question, this kind of complicated argument the Clinton folks are taking. But the bottom line is Florida and Michigan don't look like there's--there's not going to be a do-over there.

SCHIEFFER: And what about Reverend Wright? Is this going to go away, is it going to hang around?

Mr. DICKERSON: The polls show that it hasn't really scratched Obama. It hurt him a little with Republicans and independents, but it looks like it's gone away for the moment. But the polls also show there's a little time bomb in there, that some people want to hear more from him on this question.

Mr. TRIPPI: Yeah. I think it'd be a mistake for the Obama campaign to think this one's over. They need to--they need to run--they need to not run the clock out, instead run hard all the way and make sure they've addressed this, because there are signs that this is a bigger problem over the long haul if they don't--if they don't continue to nip it in the bud.

SCHIEFFER: Well, what does he do about it? I mean...

Mr. TRIPPI: Well, no, I think it's more important to--they have to win over white voters again. They lost some, particularly with independents. And think the first place you're going to see this is in Pennsylvania. But on that important day of May 6th in North Carolina, if he doesn't win some of those white voters back, that's going to be a problem, he may lose the state. So that's why I think that day's going to be very important and help answer how big a problem this is. And right now it looks like he's put it behind him, but don't let it rest. Keep pushing, keep moving to economic issues and show that--and try to move those white voters back.

Mr. DICKERSON: The other thing to do is embrace the flag. When he gave his race speech there were about 50 flags behind him. If you look in the polling where he hurt--where he's hurt against Hillary Clinton in the post-Wright period, it's on the question of patriotism. So what happens is Wright's remarks, which were anti-US, have attached to Obama, along with some other of these rumors that are out there. So he needs to--if he can't address it head-on, he has to talk about his love of country and his patriotism to get on the other side of this.

SCHIEFFER: All right, gentlemen, thank you very much. Back with a final word in just a minute.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: Finally today, I like the speech that John McCain made on foreign policy last week. I liked it because he stated the obvious. To quote: "In a world where power of all kinds is more widely and evenly distributed, the United States cannot lead by virtue of its power alone." He went on to say that when international actions are required we will try to persuade our friends we are right, but we in turn must also be willing to be persuaded by them.

For sure, our own history shows that when we have worked with others, those who shared our values and sometimes those who didn't, we have worked wonders: winning World War II, rebuilding Europe, the triumph of Western values over communism. The list is long and something for which we can all be proud. It is when we have trusted American power alone, especially when we have tried to use military power to solve political problems, that we have been less successful.

During the buildup to the invasion of Iraq, I remember some in government telling me the American military was so good we didn't need any help, that bringing in others would just slow us down. To be sure, when we let others know we needed not help, we got none. But when it all went bad we got plenty of advice on where we went wrong.

Yes, John McCain just stated the obvious, but it needed to be said. It's when we overlook the obvious that we seem to get into the most trouble.

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

