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

CBS News

FACE THE NATION

Sunday, May 4, 2008

GUESTS: Representative JAMES CLYBURN (D-SC)
House Majority Whip

Mayor DOUG WILDER (D-VA)
Richmond; Obama Supporter

Senator EVAN BAYH (D-IN)
Clinton Supporter

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 finally be decided Tuesday in Indiana and North Carolina? It's coming down to the wire, with the races in both states with primary contests this week tightening up. How much has the Pastor Wright controversy hurt Senator Obama? Could Senator Clinton win North Carolina? We'll ask Representative James Clyburn, the Democrat from South Carolina, how does Senator Obama win over white, working-class voters.

And will Senator Clinton's gas tax holiday fly? We'll talk with Obama supporter Mayor Doug Wilder of Richmond, Virginia, and Clinton supporter Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana.

I'll have a final word on political spin. Is it causing us to redefine what we call truth?

But first, coming down to Indiana and North Carolina 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.

Joining us from Columbia, South Carolina, this morning, the House majority whip James Clyburn.

Congressman, we want to welcome you to the broadcast.

Representative JAMES CLYBURN (House Majority Whip; Democrat, South Carolina): Thank you.

SCHIEFFER: You are the one, of course, who suggested some days ago that perhaps Hillary Clinton was staying in this race in hopes of tearing down Senator Obama to the point that he couldn't win, thus setting it up so she could run against a Republican four years from now. I want to ask you in a minute do you still feel that way, but first I want to talk about what's going on in your neighboring state of North Carolina. Senator Clinton seems to be closing the gap there. Do you think it is because of this controversy that is engulfed Senator Obama over his pastor, Jeremiah Wright? Well, what do you think has caused this?

Rep. CLYBURN: Well, Bob, there's no question about it. Thank you so much for having me on your show. But there's no question that Reverend Wright's controversy has in fact been a distraction. It has taken the--both campaigns off course, into discussions about things that all of us would like to get behind us. And so, knowing South Carolina and North Carolina pretty well, the Reverend Wright's comments have not been helpful to the discourse at all.

SCHIEFFER: Well, you, of course, are neutral in this race, but why do you think it is that Senator Obama is having so much trouble--and it's got to be more than just this controversy--having so much trouble getting through to blue-collar voters in these recent primaries?

Rep. CLYBURN: Well, I think it's because a lot of times we tend to emphasize people's achievements in life rather than to emphasize from whence they came. I do believe that the extent that Senator Obama can begin to tell his life story and begin to get these blue-collar workers to understanding what it's like to be raised by a single parent, what it's like to be handed off to your grandparents, what it's like to overcome all of these obstacles, many of the obstacles that they can identify with. The extent to which he can begin to tell that story and share it with the voters, he will do better with blue-collar workers.

SCHIEFFER: Do you think he's done enough to separate himself from Jeremiah Wright? He pretty much split the blanket there with his remarks last week. Is there anything more that he can do?

Rep. CLYBURN: I don't see how he can do much more. I did hear earlier this morning that he is emphasizing that he joined the church, and there's a big difference between the church and the pastor. I know. I was born and raised in a parsonage, and the church is the representative of the body of Christ, not the pastor. And I think that he's doing well now to let people know that he is identified with the church. They now have a new pastor. Reverend Wright is the ex-pastor. And so that, I think, is serving him very, very well.

SCHIEFFER: Do you think--and this, just to be in all candor--do you think some white people might be using this as a con--this controversy as a reason to vote for Senator Obama when they might have other reasons for voting--vote against him, I should say.

Rep. CLYBURN: Well, we all mask our intentions sometime, and I don't think it's just white people. I think there are some black people--I've heard them in my conversations. I notice who all were around Reverend Wright at the National Press Club. All of those--none of those that I saw were white people. And so I do believe that these kinds of issues are sometimes used to mask people's other intentions, and so I wouldn't limit it to just white people. I think people look for cover in these kinds of issues.

SCHIEFFER: Let me go back and ask you about those comments you made about Bill Clinton and about Hillary Clinton when you said that you thought that perhaps they were trying to damage Senator Obama in such a way that he would lose this time around, and thus you'd have a Republican elected and that Hillary Clinton could then run again four years from now, that this was some kind of long-term strategy. Do you really believe that, or?

Rep. CLYBURN: Mr. Schieffer, I never said that I did.

SCHIEFFER: Ah.

Rep. CLYBURN: What I said was there are 103 historical black colleges and universities in this country, seven of them are in my congressional district. And what I was saying is, as I visited those campuses in recent weeks, that is what these young people were saying to me. They were very, very upset at all this talk about superdelegates overturning their energies and overturning their efforts. They wanted to know from me whether or not I felt that this is what was going to happen. And a lot of them were saying that they felt that all of this talk about Senator Obama were just ways to damage him permanently for--and make it impossible for him to win even if he

were to get the nomination. So I was sharing with the American people what young people were beginning to say.

And I was also saying that these young people have come into this party to the extent that I have not seen in 40 years, and we ought not be doing or saying anything to tamp down their enthusiasm. When I represent all of these young people in the Congress, I want to be their voice.

Offscreen Voice: So there's no way to get audio from this program on a regular thing?

Rep. CLYBURN: And so I was expressing their voice.

SCHIEFFER: Talking about those uncommitted superdelegates...

Voice: There's no way to get the regular audio here?

SCHIEFFER: ...in your opinion, what would happen if Senator Obama came into the Democratic convention, he was ahead in popular votes, he had the lead in delegates--and it would take almost a, you know, landslide victories for Senator Clinton in every one of the remaining contests for this to be otherwise. If he came in with the most delegates and somehow the superdelegates decided to give the nomination to Senator Clinton, what do you think the result of that would be, congressman?

Rep. CLYBURN: This all depends upon the content and context. The fact still remains, after June 3rd, when all of this is over, who knows what will happen? Who knows what could come into this process at the end? The superdelegates, or I like to call, unpledged delegates, are free to vote their will. They are free to take all of these things into account, and I think that they should. What they are not free to do, in my opinion, is to just outright reject or overturn, without sufficient cause, what may have happened in these various caucuses and these primaries. And that's where we have to be very, very careful. Don't do it just because you've got the power to do it, but have good reasons if it comes to that.

SCHIEFFER: Well, what do you think will happen to those black voters? Are they going to turn out for Hillary Rodham Clinton? Let's say she does get the nomination. What will she have to do to get a large African-American turnout? Will she have to, for example, put Senator Obama on the ticket with her? Or are there other things she can do?

Rep. CLYBURN: Oh, I don't think so. I don't think it's all on Senator Clinton's plate if she were to get the nomination. I think the most important person in this process going forward will not be the person who is number one, but the person who is number two. The person who finishes second in this will be very, very important for all of our constituents to come together. And so I believe that all of us who are involved in this process are going to be responsible for doing what is necessary to bring our party back together, and I think that we will. Irrespective of which one of these people get the nomination, Democrats are going to be together coming out of our convention in August, and we are going to do what is necessary to win this presidential election come November.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, congressman, we want to thank you for dropping by this morning and we hope to check with you again as go down the campaign trail.

We'll be back in just one minute to talk to Doug Wilder, who's supporting Obama, and Evan Bayh from Indiana, who is supporting Senator Clinton.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And with us now from Richmond, Virginia, the former governor of Virginia and now the mayor of Richmond, Doug Wilder. He supports Barack Obama, of course. And joining us from Indianapolis, Indiana, Senator Evan Bayh. He is a big supporter of Hillary Clinton.

Well, I want to ask you first, Mayor Wilder, you heard what Jim Clyburn just said. He said he thinks that no matter what happens at that convention, that Democrats will come out of it united. I remember when you two were on this broadcast some weeks back. You did not seem so sure of that. You said if people got the impression that the nomination was being taken away from one of these candidates unfairly by the superdelegates, that there would be riots. You said it would--that 1968 would be nothing to what happened.

Mayor DOUG WILDER (Democrat, Richmond; Obama Supporter): At the--at the--I said at the convention...

SCHIEFFER: What's your analysis these days?

Mayor WILDER: Well, at the convention--and I think Jim Clyburn is saying pretty much the same thing--that if that perception, if that impression is real, then there would be a riotous convention. Not in the streets, none of that nonsense.

SCHIEFFER: Yeah.

Mayor WILDER: But people would be tremendously upset. And I would say that in Virginia, for instance, Obama'd had a tremendous victory. We had the smallest number of African-Americans voting in Virginia than in any Southern state, only about 15 percent voting population. And yet, I can tell you, I hear from a great number of persons, many whites, who really believe that the process should be fair, that it should ensue, that the delegates should be chosen and that the pledged delegates, as some have called them, and the unpledged delegates, I think the majority of the people and I think the majority of the delegates ultimately will see, and as you pointed out, it would take an unprecedented landslide in the next ensuing primaries or the caucuses for Hillary to catch up prior to the convention. The question is--and I think those persons who are unpledged who are superdelegates, I think they're going to do the right thing.

SCHIEFFER: All right. Well, let's go to Senator Bayh, and we're very fortunate that Senator Bayh carries his cell phone with him at all times because, for inexplicable reasons, our sound has gone out between here and Indianapolis, so we'll be talking to him on a televised cell phone contest this morning.

Senator Bayh, how's it...

Senator EVAN BAYH (Democrat, Indiana; Clinton Supporter): I usually--I usually sound best when the sound goes out.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let's talk about what's going on because we do want to get your take on what's happening in your state of Indiana. It appears that Hillary Clinton is closing in North Carolina. The last I heard, it was pretty close to even according to the polls in Indiana. What--was the--tell us what's your take?

Sen. BAYH: Well, Bob, you heard right. The race here is very close. She started off behind about eight points in the first poll I saw six weeks ago. Then it closed to four, then three, and I think now it's about dead even. And she's appealing to those middle-class economic issues--job creation, health care costs, the price of gasoline, college affordability--those kind of things that out here in middle America people are feeling squeezed economically, and she's--she wants to be their champion, and I think that's why she's on the move.

And if she does win our state, Bob, it'll be a very significant victory because we're trying to become the first state that neighbors Illinois that she will win, the first state where she started off behind and actually caught up to win. And also, in our state, I don't know how things are in Virginia with Doug, it may be the same way, but we allow people other than Democrats to vote in Indiana, unlike Pennsylvania, and so among Democrat's she's doing real well. She needs to do well also among the independents and some of those moderate Republicans.

SCHIEFFER: Why do you think is, senator, that she's been able to get through to blue-collar voters in some of these states, and Senator Obama has not? What is she doing right, and what is he doing wrong on that front?

Sen. BAYH: I think it's the perception that--a couple of things. First, her strength. She's a fighter, and I think people know that it's not going to be easy to deliver the kind of results that they want. And it's her fortitude. In some ways, the fact that she's been knocked down, and what did she do? She didn't--there have been all these calls out there for her to quit, to go away, to disenfranchise the people of our state, for example. But she says, 'No, I'm in this for the American people. I'm going to stand strong for them.' And so it's that grit and determination I think people like.

Plus, the level of experience, the ability to deliver results. Barack is a very formidable person, a gifted candidate, and is very persuasive any non--any number of levels, but it's that--between two good people, that perception that one has a little bit more experience and probably can actually deliver the kind of change that people are looking for. I think that's...

SCHIEFFER: OK.

Sen. BAYH: ...resonating well here in the Heartland.

SCHIEFFER: Well, let me just ask Governor Wilder on that front.

Governor, if she should wind up winning out there in Indiana, and at least just coming close in North Carolina, shouldn't she hang in there? Shouldn't she stay in despite what people say, that this is tearing down both of them?

Mayor WILDER: I think she should stay in as long as she chooses, and I think, as has been pointed out by Jim Clyburn, that number two person is the very important person.

But I want to go back to a question you asked Evan, and you likewise referenced it a bit to Jim Clyburn. Why are the poll numbers showing a certain element of the voter being unreachable, as far as Barack is concerned? Let's get real. Who has been running all of the ads on a regular basis? The bloggers, the right-wing commentators on the radio, who are they supporting? Not Barack Obama. They are literally begging people--and these are Republicans--literally begging people, 'Please vote for Hillary Clinton.' They have no intention of supporting Hillary Clinton in November. And why are they doing that? Why is it Barack Obama can reach what some call the elite voter, but he can't reach the others? That's poppycock. There is a concentrated effort to drive those voters away from him and to drive them to Hillary Clinton because many of them think that Hillary will be the weaker.

On the issues of the economy, this so-called gimmick, this gas tax gimmick, 30, \$28 dollars for the people if they would forgo the tax, look what it does for the jobs. Two to 300,000 jobs gone because the money won't be there for the--for the project. So I think there's a hidden message here, Bob, and I think the answer comes from those persons who should be saying why they are asking everyone to vote for Hillary Clinton in a Democratic primary.

SCHIEFFER: All right. I've got to let Senator Bayh just respond to that. About 20 seconds, though.

Sen. BAYH: Well, quickly, Bob, my friend Doug calls it a gimmick. Senator Obama has called the gas tax moratorium phony. He voted for it three times in the Illinois state legislature.

Mayor WILDER: But he admitted--he admitted he was wrong, though. He admitted he was wrong.

Sen. BAYH: Three times. He understood--he understood then what--he understood then what middle American, middle class families know now, and that is that if the choice is between 10 billion more dollars for the big oil companies or money in their pockets, more money in their pockets during these tight times, that's the right thing to do, and that's what Hillary Clinton wants to do.

SCHIEFFER: I'm...

Sen. BAYH: On terms of electability--well...

SCHIEFFER: We've got to...

Sen. BAYH: ...Bob, do we need to go?

SCHIEFFER: Yeah, we got to go.

Sen. BAYH: OK.

SCHIEFFER: I'm very sorry. Thanks for bringing your phone. We'll be back with our--with our final...

Sen. BAYH: OK.

SCHIEFFER: ...no, we'll come back with another segment here in just a second.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: And we're back again with the Virginia former Governor Doug Wilder, now mayor of Richmond and Senator Evan Bayh. We're playing "Does the Equipment Work Here?" We may have to go back to the cell phones.

But let me go back to you, Senator Bayh, because I cut you off a little abruptly. One of your fellow Hoosiers, the former head of the DNC, Joe Andrew, switched his allegiance from Clinton to Obama last week, urged other Hoosiers to do the same. Said he thought the primary process had become bad for the Democratic Party, and that a vote for Hillary Clinton is a vote to continue this process, and that is a vote that assists John McCain. Do you think Hoosiers will listen to him?

Sen. BAYH: I don't, Bob. You know, it's a free world, people are allowed to make up their own minds. I respect that, you know, his decision. But look, I don't think we should cut the process off. I think it's kind of a strange thing to come to Indiana and say, 'We ought to--we ought to stop the process so you can't vote.' I mean, there are millions of people out there in Kentucky and West Virginia and Oregon and other places. They have a right to vote. So let's let the process go forward, as Jim and Doug were saying. Let's total up the votes at the end of this and let's see who actually won. That's number one.

Number two, in our state, Bob, for 40 years we haven't mattered. I mean, people fly over, they kind of look out their airplane window and wonder who those folks are down there, but they never stop unless they want to raise money. Now they're coming to us. They're listening to us. They care about our concerns. That's a good thing. We have thousands of more volunteers, thousands of more contributors, Indiana will be more competitive up and down the ballot because of this process being allowed to go forward.

Final thing I'd say, Doug was talking about Republicans coming over and that kind of thing, and I don't want--Doug, I agree with you on one thing. We don't want Rush Limbaugh deciding our primary. But if you look at the polls today--the average of all the polls, not just one here or there--in the state of Ohio, which was the key state last time, Hillary now runs about eight or nine points better than Barack. In Florida, which was the key state in 2000, she runs about 10 or 11 points better. She's inched ahead of John McCain nationally. Barack's a little behind. So all these things suggest that with Democrats, independents, Republicans, she's doing very, very well.

SCHIEFFER: So does that mean, Mayor Wilder, that she probably is more electable as this process goes on, that probably she is the stronger candidate? Is--that seems to be what Senator Bayh is saying here.

Mayor WILDER: Absolutely not. Because you've got to ask the flip side of the coin, and that is why is she not doing as well with other voters? And are those voters going to be there? You referenced it earlier on. And so what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. You can't assume that a majority of the block of the Democratic vote is going to be just coming to the fold

just because it's been there all the time. I predict that the party would be united. You look at John McCain's foreign policy speech. My God, these are the things we should be talking about, not Jeremiah Wright. Look how he's talking about dissing Russia and forgetting the need to get closer with having a relationship with people to be a hegemony against terrorism and other things.

One final thing I wanted to say. Evan pointed out that Obama voted for this gimmick, this gas tax. Yes. When he was in the Indiana state legislature, and he is the first admit that he learned from his mistake because it was wrong. That's why he knows that this is a gimmick that can't work.

SCHIEFFER: Well, one thing we see for sure, there is a divide among Democratic voters, young vs. old, rich vs. poor.

Mayor WILDER: Yes.

SCHIEFFER: African-American vs. white. So is the answer in the end--and I'll both of you this question, you first, Governor Wilder--is it the so-called dream ticket that has both of them on it? Thirty seconds, governor.

Mayor WILDER: No. Who is that person who has talked about healing, bringing all people together--not rich nor poor, not black, nor white, nor ethnicities or religions, but speaking for the people of America? That's been Barack Obama. It is not a matter of picking which side to be on for a particular issue, and that's why I really do believe America's rising to its highest possibility of potential. We will have one of those persons, in my judgment, as the next president of the United States.

SCHIEFFER: What about you, Senator Bayh? Is the dream ticket viable?

Sen. BAYH: Well, they'll both be working together in the fall, Bob. I feel very strongly about that. I know both of these people. They know that what really matters is progress for our country on some of these economic issues, on a better policy in Iraq, those kinds of things. And I think Doug was right. One of them's going to be the next president. The question is, who is best positioned to actually deliver the results that we need? I think most Democrats understand, that's what we need to focus on, not some of these peripheral distractions.

SCHIEFFER: All right.

Sen. BAYH: So whether they're running together on a ticket or not, they'll be together campaigning in the fall.

SCHIEFFER: This time we really do have to go, and I will note both of you artfully dodged the question.

Back with a final word in just a moment.

(Announcements)

SCHIEFFER: I saw a story in The Washington Post the other day in which a reporter granted a government official anonymity in order, as the newspaper put it, for the government official to speak more candidly. Well, that made me wonder: Do we no longer expect government officials to tell the whole story if they must take responsibility for what they say? Even worse, do we believe that it is acceptable?

For sure, the White House won no prize for candor last week. It gave the outgoing head of the General Services Administration, Lurita Doan, a big send-off by thanking her for making government buildings more energy efficient or some such, when in truth she was forced out. She was the object of multiple investigations, suspicious dealings on government contracts and asking government employees what they could do to help political candidates--which is, of course, against the law. Even the government's watchdog agency recommended she be disciplined to the fullest extent. Yet the White House spokesman declined to say if her resignation had anything to do with any of that; from the White House came only thanks and confirmation she was gone. The government saw no obligation to say why.

Which leads me to this: Have decades of secrecy, spin and stonewalling conditioned us to accept less than the whole story from the government? Is telling the whole truth no longer a given? Frankly, I'm not sure. What I do know is more and more people seem skeptical of everything the government says and does. What we saw last week may be one reason why.

See you next week right here on FACE THE NATION.

